Tuesday October 1 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50 Albania L 220 Andorra FF 10 Austria AS 30 Bahrain BD 0.85 Belgium BF 65 Bulgaria L 240 Canada C$ 3.95 Croatia KN 12.50 Cyprus CE 1.00 Czech Republic KC50 Denmark DK 15 Dubai D 8.50 Egypt EE 6.50 Estonia K 30 Finland FM 12 France FF 10 Germany DM 3.50 Greece D 400 Hong Kong HK$ 25 Hungary F 230 Iceland IK 185 India Rs 55 Israel NIS 9.90 Italy L 9,000 Jordan JD 1.25 Kenya KSH 150 Kuwait KD 0.50 Latvia US$ 2 Lebanon LL 3000 Lithuania US$ 2 Luxembourg LF 55 Madeira E 270 Malta ML 0.43 Morocco D 25 Netherlands G 4.00 Norway NK 16 Oman OR 1.00 Pakistan R 70 Poland Z 6.20 Portugal E 240 Qatar QR 8.50 Russia US$ 2.00 Saudi Arabia R 10 Slovakia SK 55 Slovenia SLT 290 Spain P 250 Sweden SK 17 Switzerland SF 3.20 Thailand B 80 Tunisia TD 1.750 Turkey TL 100,000 Ukraine US$ 2.00 USA US$ 2.75

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

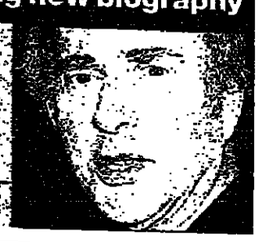
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

46,672

Exclusive extract from the revealing new biography

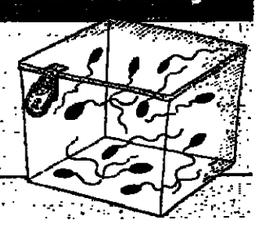
Pinter
His life and work



G2 with European weather

Should DB be allowed her dead husband's baby?

Whose sperm is it anyway?



G2 pages 12/13

Education

Has Labour done a U-turn on selection?

G2 pages10/11

Disgraced former minister and lobbyist abandon £10m case at last minute

A liar and a cheat

New evidence halts MP's libel suit

David Hencke, David Leigh and David Pallister

NEIL Hamilton, the disgraced former minister, yesterday walked away from a £10 million libel suit against the Guardian over the "cash for questions" scandal hours before the case was due to start today.

The former Department of Trade and Industry minister abandoned the case and agreed to pay some of the Guardian's costs after a bitter two-year battle in which he recruited 421 Conservative MPs and peers, including Lady Thatcher, Lord Archer and members of the Cabinet to change the law to bring his action.

Ian Greer, the parliamentary lobbyist accused of acting as a middleman for the payments, also dropped his action and agreed to pay some of the paper's costs.

Alan Rusbridger, editor of the Guardian, said: "The decision by Neil Hamilton and Ian Greer must be one of the most astonishing legal cave-ins in the history of the law of libel.

"Last night, press statements issued by both Greer and Hamilton falsely claimed that the Guardian had made the first settlement offer. It was the last of hundreds of lies both men have told in the course of the case — to the public, the lawyers and (it may be) to each other."

The Guardian called last night for the papers in the case to be examined by the Prime Minister, Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary commissioner and the Inland Revenue.

But today the Guardian reveals for the first time the extent of Mr Hamilton's covert links with Mr Greer and the way money — amounting to tens of thousands of pounds in £50 notes — was passed to the lobbyist and the MP in plain brown envelopes.

We also expose the network of MPs built up by Mr Greer, including Tim Smith, the former minister who resigned after the Guardian first accused him of taking money for asking questions in Parliament, Sir Michael Grylls, chairman of the backbench trade and industry committee, Sir Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham, and Sir Andrew Bowden, MP for Brighton Kemptown.

The Guardian had subpoenaed John Major and Michael Heseltine to give evidence in the case. This led to the Government handing over documents to the newspaper's lawyers, Geoffrey Robertson, QC and Geraldine Proudler, which were crucial to the action. They were intended to be used in the case to investigate whether Mr Hamilton had disclosed his financial relationship with the Mr Greer, during the inquiry into the affair in 1994 organised by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary.

The libel trial would have included first hand evidence from Mohamed Al Fayed about the payments to the ex-minister and evidence from a former member of Ian Greer's staff about other payments to Mr Hamilton and other MPs. It would also have been the first time a Prime Minister had been asked to give evidence in a libel case.

The scale of the trial would have re-opened the whole vexed question of parliamentary sleaze only a year after the Government had made strenuous efforts to bury the issue by implementing the Nolan Committee report and appointing a new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey, to handle complaints about improper conduct by MPs.

Mr Rusbridger said last night: "The only possible explanation is that both Hamilton and Greer knew that their evidence the Guardian had compiled to defend the case would have blown his action out of the water and revealed a pattern of parliamentray sleaze more far reaching than we had ever imagined.

"The Guardian has never doubted the truth of its original story and has refused to be deterred by the repeated attacks on our integrity by Mr Hamilton, Mr Greer and their colleagues. We would have produced utterly damning evidence of Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer's lack of integrity if the case had proceeded. No doubt that is why they dropped the action."

Mr Hamilton said: "I am devastated at having now to withdraw from the libel action.

"The reason why I am applying for leave to withdraw is not because I am anything other than totally innocent of the charges made by Mr Fayed, but since a conflict of interest has now arisen between me and my co-plaintiffs, it has become necessary to each of us to instruct new solicitors and new counsel.

"The consequence of this is that the trial would have had to have been postponed to enable new sets of lawyers to go through the huge volume of papers and prepare the cash afresh at enormously increased cost.

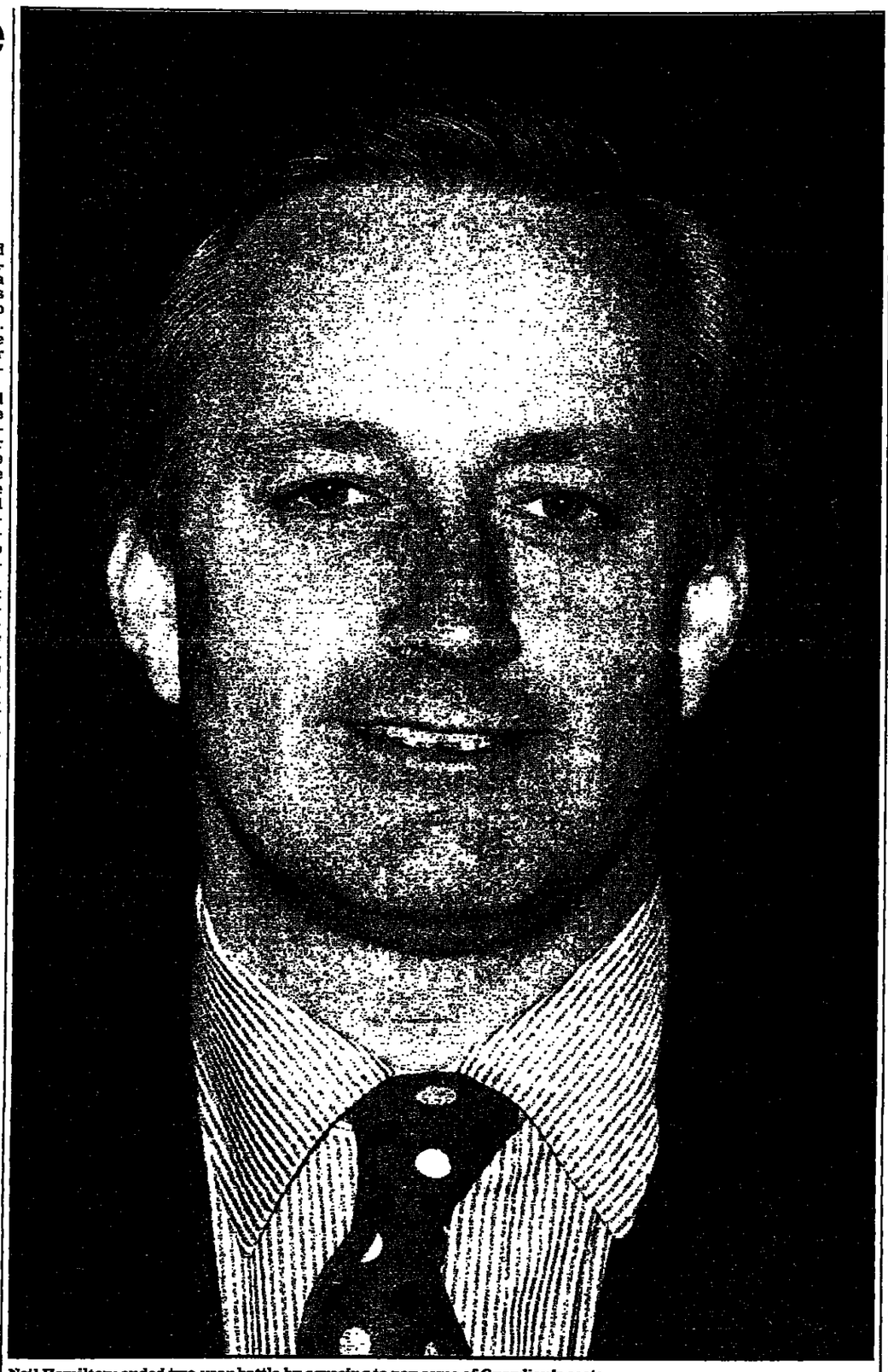
Mr Greer said: "I would want to continue on a matter of principle but I have had to take a sensible commercial decision and I am happy a compromise has been reached."

A spokesman for Mr Al Fayed said last night said: "The Guardian has been furnished with corroborative statments from highly reputable witnesses.

"Mr Al Fayed was looking forward to giving evidence and was prepared to tell the judge and jury how he had suffered from a widespread political conspiracy. He will besending his papers on the matter to Sir Gordon Downey."

Downing Street last night insisted that the end of the libel action was purely a "matter between Mr Hamilton and the Guardian".

Corruption in the Commons, pages 2-3; Unpicking the web, page 9



Neil Hamilton: ended two-year battle by agreeing to pay some of Guardian's costs

Questions for cash. . .

'Sometimes he [Mr Greer] would ask me bluntly whether Mr Al Fayed had his money ready.'

'Mr Hamilton was as persistent as Mr Greer, if not more so, in asking for his envelope.'

— Mohamed Al Fayed's ex-personal assistant

'I remember on several occasions that prior to a meeting with Mr Hamilton, Mr Al Fayed would make a remark ...that he was coming to collect his money and would prepare an envelope for him with a bundle of £2,500 (in) notes in my presence.'

— Mr Al Fayed's secretary

'On at least two occasions when I was sitting at the front desk, an envelope was brought down to me from Mr Al Fayed's office and I was informed that Mr Hamilton would be stopping by to collect the envelope.'

— Mr Al Fayed's security man

Comment

Blustering all the way to a cop-out

SELDOM in the long and chequered history of the libel law can there have been a more humiliating cave-in. For two years now Neil Hamilton and Ian Greer have blustered vigorously and noisily about their utter innocence and this paper's utter guilt. Mr Hamilton persuaded his fellow Conservative MPs to overturn 300 years of constitutional history in order to let him have his day in court. Possibly without the support of Sir James Goldsmith this time, he went, cap-in-hand, to solicit backbench contributions to his cause. Barely three weeks ago he issued a boastful press release revealing that he would expose the Guardian's "corruption" and our peddling of "sensational fantasy". Both Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer continued blustering all the way to the court door — and then dropped out.

Their backers in this heroic fight for truth must be curious as to why such a crusade should have been so mutely abandoned at the 11th hour. We can help them. Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer are liars — and both knew they had been found out. The accumulation of evidence that mounted against both men would have been utterly damning had the case ever proceeded. Mr Hamilton, in particular, would have been shown to have lied to virtually everybody who had ever had cause to inquire into his affairs. The case would further have shown that the Guardian's original claims about cash for questions were entirely true — though they represented but the tip of an iceberg. Mr Hamilton was not an isolated bad apple — though he has for many years been earning considerable sums on the back of his parliamentary career via Ian Greer's lobbying firm. A nauseating portrait would have emerged of MPs on the take and of Mr Greer's insidious, spider's web caught up dozens of MPs, high and low. If there are two men more relieved than Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer not to be in court this week, they are surely John Major and Michael Heseltine, no longer required to come and attempt on oath to defend the indefensible.

The ways of the law are curious. During the course of preparing for a libel trial each side is obliged to surrender such papers, accounts and memorandums as may be relevant. They may all be used in court: but if a plaintiff suffers from cold feet at the last minute the papers must all be returned and (presumably) forgotten. So the account of events in the Guardian today is, inevitably, incomplete — a glimpse of a revealed pattern of greed and deception which should be of grave concern to the Prime Minister and all those concerned for parliamentary democracy. Today we urge Mr Major to call in all the documents. We hope Sir Gordon Downey, the new man now responsible for parliamentary standards, does likewise. The Inland Revenue would certainly find much to interest them. It might even be fruitful for the Director of Public Prosecutions to ask for a set. In any other democracy, MPs who secretly take money from millionaires to advance their causes in Parliament are put behind bars. In Britain, they stand for re-election. That is the simple, staggering truth about a Parliament which connives at corruption under the pretence of defending the privileges of its members.

The British position has been justified by the comfortable theory that Parliament can punish its own miscreants, after an investigation by the Privileges Committee and its report to the House. But the Privileges Committee is a jurisprudential joke. It has no investigative procedures, no legal methods (such as cross-examination) to test for truth. It is the committee of a gentleman's club, with an in-built Government majority, astute only to ensure that those who are caught not disclosing secret payments should be thrashed with a feather.

It is too early to judge what difference the Nolan reforms will make. MPs now have more extensive disclosure duties — a "code of conduct" and a Parliamentary Commissioner to investigate complaints. It is not too early to judge Mr Hamilton. Lord Nolan specified seven qualities needed by an elected MP: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Mr Hamilton is without a single one. He is not fit to hold office.

Inside

Britain Northern Ireland moved closer to the resumption of terror after Loyalist prisoners said they no longer recognised the ceasefire. **4**

World News President Clinton's Mideast summit was back on track when Yasser Arafat shook off Egyptian advice and said he would attend as promised. **6**

Finance Eurotunnel may be placed into administration under French law unless agreement is reached on £8 billion bank borrowings. **11**

Sport Everton manager Joe Royle jolted in the chase for AC Milan striker George Weah. The asking price is around £11 million. **16**

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10

G2

Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

9 770261 307323 40

CORRUPTION IN THE COMMONS

The former minister was pocketing cash from two sources

October 1994 . . . Neil Hamilton, with his wife Christine, brandishes a biscuit given to him during a school visit and jokes that he will have to register the gift PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

Chain of events that led to the unmasking of 'Mr B' – the MP who collected his pay-offs in Park Lane

The rise and fall of a double

David Leigh

THE secret money that Neil Hamilton took as a backbencher was of two kinds: cash in envelopes from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, and "commissions" from the lobbyist Ian Greer. The sums added up to tens of thousands of pounds.

But when the then DTI Minister was under investigation in 1994 by the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, and the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, he lied about these financial relationships.

Staff at the Park Lane offices of Mr Al Fayed say they remember Neil Hamilton. "Mr Hamilton came to Park Lane quite often to see Mr Al Fayed," one says, "usually about once every four to six weeks."

He would phone, too, in the period around 1987, asking whether his envelopes were ready.

One of those envelopes was prepared by Mr Al Fayed in 1987 shortly before a free trip to the Ritz Hotel in Paris, which the tycoon had arranged for Mr Hamilton and his wife. It contained more than £2,000 and was left at the reception desk at Park Lane.

Mr Al Fayed's staff have signed witness statements describing how Mr Hamilton collected these envelopes. One records: "Prior to a meeting with Mr Hamilton, Mr Al Fayed would make a remark to the effect that he was coming to collect his money, and would prepare an envelope with a bundle of £2,500 in notes in my presence."

Envelopes containing cash went also to Mr Greer, say the Harrods camp — he was collecting £5,000 in cash per quarter on top of the £25,000 a year which Ian Greer Associates Ltd was invoicing Harrods for the lobbying account.

The purpose of the payments was to encourage Mr Hamilton in his series of parliamentary letters, meetings and questions on Mr Al Fayed's behalf, during his long-running war with rival tycoon Tiny Rowland of Lonrho.

Lonrho had persuaded DTI ministers to start an investi-

He used to make phone calls to tycoon

gation into Mr Al Fayed's finances, and the Harrods owner wanted to persuade the authorities to investigate Lonrho instead.

As well as the money and free trips that Mr Al Fayed could be persuaded to give him directly, the MP also took secret payments from Mr Greer. He had narrowly escaped exposure for this once, during a Privileges Committee inquiry in 1989.

But the truth was finally bound to come out if Mr Hamilton's libel trial went ahead.

There was a covert financial relationship between the two men that went back a long way. In 1984, the recently elected Conservative MP had been campaigning in Parliament to retain lead in petrol.

The company which made the lead additive, Associated Octel, had some workers in Mr Hamilton's constituency. But the firm was also paying Mr Greer to lobby for them.

At the time, Mr Hamilton denied indignantly that cash from Mr Greer was involved. "I have never received a penny piece from the company," he said. "My interest is solely to try and save jobs for my constituents." Mr Greer said equally sanctimoniously in a TV interview: "We don't pay Members of Parliament." He went on: "We have not had MPs as advisers or directors of the company . . . if for no other good reason than one has a substantial number of friends in the House of Commons, and it is unnecessary to do so".

But Mr Greer had already paid one Labour MP, Walter Johnson, who gave help in the Associated Octel campaign. And the following year, he was to start paying MPs again. Mr Greer was hired to lobby for British Airways, which was fighting plans to reduce its monopoly on some routes.

Mr Greer started giving money in 1985 to Tory MP Sir Michael Grylls, who had proposed to the BA chairman, Lord King, that Ian Greer Associates be hired as lobbyists.

Mr Greer was later to admit to an MPs' committee that he had made payments to certain MPs. But although Sir Michael Grylls's name was confirmed, the identity of a second MP who had been getting money remained a secret. Mr Greer refused to identify him other than as MP "B". And MP "B" was how the recipient of cash was anonymously described in the Privileges Committee report published in July 1990.

Mr Hamilton placed his first foot on the ministerial ladder imediately after that report came out. At the end of

He first took Greer's money in 1986

July 1990, Mr Hamilton was promoted by Margaret Thatcher to become a government whip.

In time, he was further promoted by John Major to become corporate affairs minister at the DTI.

A witness for the Guardian has now given a statement that Mr Hamilton received commission payments from Mr Greer at the relevant dates. It has thus come to light that MP "B" was Mr Hamilton.

On Mr Greer's own admissions in 1990, the MP had first started receiving money in 1986. He had deliberately never declared his financial relationship with Ian Greer on the Register of Members Interests. Nor did he declare it to ministers when lobbying on behalf of Mr Greer's clients.

Nor did Mr Hamilton truthfully disclose the financial relationship with Mr Greer during the official investigation into his conduct after the Guardian article of October 1994 which first revealed he was getting cash for questions.

A prime minsterial announcement by Mr Major to the House at the time detailed the account Mr Hamilton gave of his financial dealings. It is clear from that statement that no acknowledgment was made by Mr Hamilton during the inquiry of his financial link with Mr Greer.

Mr Hamilton therefore deceived his departmental boss, the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine. He also deceived the Prime Minister, the Chief Whip, Richard Ryder, and the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler.

The accounts, bills and cancelled cheques of Ian Greer Associates for the years from 1986, together with Neil Hamilton's bank accounts and tax returns, will tell the story of the successive payments MP "B" received, and the form in which they came.

Government records held by Sir Robin and those of Mr Major's principal private secretary, Alex Allan, will reveal how Mr Hamilton did not tell the truth in 1994 when he came under investigation.

These documents are in the hands of Mr Hamilton and his lawyers. They would have been produced in open court at the trial — if it had taken place.

Midnight meeting where bluff began

THE LEGAL BATTLE

'He was handed pearl-handled revolver and refused it'

Brian Whitaker

IT SEEMED like a golden opportunity. Neil Hamilton had won a libel case before and he could do it again. When he sued the BBC in 1988 they had coughed up £20,000 damages, plus £235,000 costs, without even presenting their own side of the case in court.

He was confident that the Guardian would cave in just as easily — so confident that he told Tory colleagues the damages he expected were his "pension fund".

His wife, Christine, was equally chirpy. "Together we can take on anyone," she told an interviewer. "We took on the BBC and we're taking on the Guardian. We've done it before, so we're much better prepared."

In fact, they were not prepared at all. Mr Hamilton had been on the take for years but had been careless in covering his tracks. He concealed it for a time by declaring only a fraction of it in the register of members' interests and, if necessary, by lying.

Towards midnight on October 19, 1994, word of The Guardian's article alleging that Mr Hamilton had been paid to ask parliamentary questions on behalf of House of Fraser spread rapidly through Westminster as early editions of the next day's paper began to arrive. Richard Ryder, the Conservative Chief Whip, confronted Mr Hamilton about the story and was less than satisfied.

At a meeting in the Cabinet Office next morning, Mr Ryder and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, raised the allegations with Mr Hamilton, who again tried to bluff it out. He would certainly have been obliged to resign immediately if he admitted the allegations. But denial placed him in another difficulty as he came under pressure to prove his words by suing the Guardian. John Major was due to make a statement in the Commons that afternoon and wanted to know Mr Hamilton's intentions. Mr Ryder and Sir Robin left him alone to consider his future. "He was handed the pearl-handled revolver and refused to use it," one cabinet source said later. Mr Hamilton called Peter Carter-Ruck, the prominent libel lawyer, and instructed him to issue a writ against the Guardian.

In his constituency next day, Mr Hamilton visited Wilmslow High School, where, in the kitchens, someone presented him with a home-made ginger biscuit. He waved the biscuit in front of the press and announced he would be declaring it as a gift in the register of members' interests. Senior Tories took a dim view of this frivolity from a government minister.

A second gaffe followed when Mr Hamilton issued a press statement defending his decision to fight a libel action while still holding government office. He pointed out that Mr Major had sued Scallywag magazine without anyone suggesting he should resign as prime minister. The statement implied to some that Mr Hamilton was likening himself to Mr Major.

The following week Mr Hamilton maintained his "business as usual" facade, inaugurating a Local Business Partnership scheme at Bexhill, East Sussex. While driving from Bexhill to a Chamber of Commerce lunch near Gatwick, he received a phone call from No 10 summoning him back to London. He arrived at the Cabinet Office to face new allegations and an invitation to resign.

Biscuit joke went down badly

These allegations were unconnected with the Guardian's article. According to press reports they concerned Hamilton's connections with Mobil Oil and his short-lived directorship of the financially disastrous Plateau Mining company. This proved to be the last straw.

In the wake of his resignation, Mr Hamilton continued to protest his innocence. But his desire to "clear his name" through the courts was initially thwarted by a 300-year-old law. Article 9 of the 1689 Bill of Rights states: "The Freedom of Speech and Debates or Proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court of place out of Parliament." Normally this works to the benefit of MPs, allowing them to speak freely in Parliament — even to the extent of making defamatory statements — without the risk of being sued.

But because Mr Hamilton's conduct in Parliament had been the central issue in the Guardian's story, it also meant that most of the paper's evidence would be inadmissible in court.

At a preliminary hearing in July last year, Mr Justice May accepted this argument and ruled that the case should be stayed. The outcome worried a number of MPs besides Mr Hamilton, who feared it would grant newspapers carte blanche to publish defamatory articles about their parliamentary activities.

About the same time a new Defamation Bill was passing through parliament, designed to make minor reforms to the libel law. An amendment was tagged on to the bill which allowed individual MPs to waive parliamentary privilege in order to allow a libel action to proceed.

The bill, with its amendment as clause 13, finally became law in last month and Mr Hamilton, having waived his privilege, resumed the action.

At a hearing in mid-August, October 1 was set as the starting date for what, at the time, was expected to be a four-week trial.

On the Guardian's side, the Bill of Rights continued to cause some anxiety because, although Mr Hamilton had waived his own privilege, it was not clear whether the paper would be allowed to mention other MPs who had been paid by Ian Greer and/or Mohamed Al Fayed. These included Tim Smith, who had been named alongside Mr Hamilton in the Guardian's original article and had resigned his ministerial post as a result, but who was refusing to waive his privilege.

Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer had not, perhaps, expected the Guardian would subpoena the Prime Minister, his deputy and others to support their case. When the first batch of subpoenaed documents arrived from Downing Street, Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer realised that their bluffing game was over.

Lobby links turned in handsome profit

COMPANIES AND QUESTIONS

SOON after he became an MP in 1983, Neil Hamilton linked up with Ian Greer, one of the country's top lobbyists. The pair had a profitable relationship, with Mr Hamilton regularly asking questions in the House and lobbying ministers for Mr Greer's clients. They included:

☐ **Firm:** Harrods
Aim: Owner Mohammed Al Fayed sought help in battle against Lonrho
Status: Hamilton was paid cash in envelopes plus free Ritz stay in Paris. Greer was paid £25,000 fees p.a. plus cash
Parliamentary action: Hamilton saw Ministers, wrote letters, and asked parliamentary questions (PQs). Between 1985 and 1989 he asked eight PQs and early day motions which were all beneficial to Mohamed Al Fayed and the Harrods Group. The questions and early day motions ranged from asking Michael Howard to reply to letters sent to him by Al Fayed in February 1987 to applauding the withdrawal of a proposed motion by Clare Short condemning Harrods treatment of their staff.

☐ **Firm:** National Nuclear Corporation (NNC)
Aim: Sought government orders to design nuclear power stations. Based in Hamilton's own constituency.
Status: Hamilton was paid (declared 1987). Greer's firm was paid.
Parliamentary action: Hamilton made three speeches in 1987 urging Sizewell nuclear power station go-ahead and praising the NNC.

☐ **Firm:** US Tobacco Inc.
Aim: Sought to block government health ban on their chewing tobacco, Skoal Bandits.
Status: Hamilton was paid "finder's fee" 1988 (not declared).
Hamilton got free trip to US (not declared)
Greer's firm was paid.
Parliamentary action: Hamilton wrote to health minister Ray Whitney on behalf of Skoal Bandits in May 1986. He proposed an amendment to the Finance Bill on June 13 1989 concerning oral snuff. On December 20 1989he put down an early day motion, calling for the ban, which had finally been imposed, to be annulled.

☐ **Firm:** Mobil Oil
Aim: Under Monopolies Commission investigation Oct 1988-Feb 1990 as part of inquiry into petrol station prices
Status: Hamilton was paid (Declared 1989-90)
Parliamentary activity: Asked parliamentary question about Liquefied Petroleum Gas, May 9 1989

☐ **Firm:** Alcohol industry
Aim: Sought to block Mergers and Monopolies Commission (MMC) recommendations to sell off tied pubs.
Status: Hamilton paid regular cash by Brewers Society (declared 1984-90)
Parliamentary activity: On Mar 9 1989, signed early day motion praising brewing industry and rejecting MMC report.

☐ **Firm:** Plateau Mining
Aim: Mining company floated on Stock Exchange in January 1990.
Status: As a consultant with the National Association of Licensed Open-cast Operators, Hamilton was invited to join the board in the same month to lend credibility.
Salary: Up to £10,000.
Resigned in September 1990, two months after joining Government. Company's share price crashed in 1992 after losses of £11m. Four men associated with the company now charged with fraud in other similar inflated flotations.

Research by Jamie Wilson and Jane Mulholland

TIM SMITH

Hard-earned front bench career ended with admission in resignation letter to Major: 'Mr Al Fayed paid me fees'

David Pallister

A PRESENT of two teddy bears in the register of MPs' interests was the only indication of a business relationship between the owner of Harrods and the member for Beaconsfield. But Tim Smith had been an energetic asker of parliamentary questions on behalf of Mohamed Al Fayed during his bitter battle with Tiny Rowland over the ownership of the House of Fraser.

The two had met at a Commons function organised by the lobbyist Ian Greer. Between October 1987 and January 1989 he tabled 17 questions. Suspicions might have been aroused then: the former accountant had a reputation for assiduously placing questions for his declared consultancies.

In four years from 1987 he tabled more than 100, at a cost of about £10,000, to glean information for his client Price Waterhouse. In two days in March 1988 he put down 58 questions alone.

When the Guardian first began investigating the lobbying of Ian Greer Associates in 1993 he denied receiving any payments from Mr Al Fayed. "That's not true," he said.

But a year later, after the Guardian had published the cash-for-questions allegations against him and Neil Hamilton, he wrote in his resignation letter to John Major: "Mr Al Fayed paid me fees." Like the expert accountant he is, he said he declared them on his tax returns.

Mr Smith's resignation as the junior Northern Ireland minister at 47, ended a brief front bench career that took an age to acquire.

Educated at Harrow and Oxford, he became an MP in a 1977 byelection when he won the Labour stronghold of Ashfield in Nottinghamshire with a swing of 20.9 per cent and a majority of 264.

Ashfield reverted to Labour in 1979 but Mr Smith reentered parliament in 1982 for the affluent Buckinghamshire constituency, one of the safest in the House. His Labour opponent was a young hopeful called Tony Blair.

His early years as a tax specialist, led him naturally to acquire a batch of consultancies in the financial field: the British Insurance and Investment Brokers' Association, the Commodity Trader's Group, Lloyds Group Union and the British Venture Capital Association.

During the late eighties he was twice on the Conservative MPs' trade and industry committee, the interface between business and ministers that Ian Greer so carefully cultivated.

Despite this embarrassment, Mr Smith has been partially rehabilitated. Last year, he was appointed to the public accounts committee, the key auditing body which examines probity in government spending.

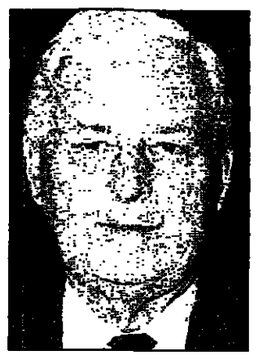
CORRUPTION IN THE COMMONS

Five MPs paid by £3.5m firm besieged Parliament on client's behalf

Political lobbyist who controlled system that reached deep into corridors of power and influence

Ian Greer, who assembled a group of MPs to lobby for Mohamed Al Fayed, including (centre) Sir Michael Grylls and (right) Sir Peter Hordern

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER



act caught in web of greed

David Leigh

IAN GREER, the widely acknowledged doyen of the political lobbying business, has worked for some of Britain's best-known names, among them British Airways, Coca-Cola and the Philip Morris cigarette firm.

The 63-year-old's firm at its height employed a staff of 50, and had expanded its lobbying activities to Brussels and Eastern Europe. With a turnover of £3.5 million in 1995, Greer was personally making £300,000 a year in pay and dividends.

He is the son of a Salvation Army officer and worked as a Conservative Party agent before setting up his own company, Ian Greer Associates, in 1982. Mr Greermet Neil Hamilton, a young former Monday Club enthusiast, at the end of the 70s, through the Tory MP Michael Grylls.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the Hamilton case is the way that a group of up to five MPs, including the chairman, the vice-chairman and the secretary of the Conservative Trade and Industry Committee, were assembled by Ian Greer to lobby on behalf of his client, the owner of Harrods, Mohamed Al Fayed.

The Greer MPs' group, in which Mr Hamilton was prominent, wrote letters, asked parliamentary questions and went in delegations to ministers. Although civil servants believed they were dealing with representatives of back-bench opinion, every one of the group of five was in fact being paid.

□ Sir Michael Grylls, the committee chairman

Sir Michael was receiving repeated cash payments from Mr Greer. These were described by him to the Members' Interests Committee inquiry in 1990 as commissions for companies he introduced to the lobbyist.

The first of such cash payments he admits came on November 1 1985, the very day Mohamed Al Fayed was signed up as a Greer client. Sir Michael did not declare his commission payments at the time on the Register of Members Interests

□ Tim Smith, committee secretary

The MP for Beaconsfield

Greer lobbied in eastern Europe

was taking cash payments from Al Fayed himself during the Greer-Al Fayed lobbying operation, which he privately recorded on his income tax returns for 1987-9, but never declared on the Register of Members' Interests.

When the Guardian disclosed he was taking money in 1994, Smith, who had by then become a Minister, admitted it to the Prime Minister and resigned.

□ Neil Hamilton, committee secretary, and later vice-chairman

Hamilton was receiving payments from Greer from 1986 onwards, which he never declared. He also had from Al Fayed a week's undeclared free holiday with his wife at the luxury Ritz Hotel in Paris, during which they ordered champagne every night. He also received, Mr Al Fayed says, a large quantity of cash from him, in envelopes.

□ Sir Peter Hordern MP

Hordern, MP for Horsham, was paid regular sums by Al Fayed. He arranged and accompanied the deputations to Ministers by Grylls, Smith and Hamilton. Unlike the others, however, Sir Peter complied fully with existing Commons rules. He declared in the Members' Interests register that he was a paid consultant to House of Fraser, the Al Fayed parent group; and when he contacted ministers, he always told them he was in Al Fayed's pay.

□ Andrew Bowden MP

Bowden, Conservative MP for marginal Brighton Kemptown, was recruited by Greer to join the "Al Fayed group" between February and July 1987. He was paid £5,000, Mr Al Fayed says, for his lobbying work at Westminster.

□ What the committee did

With the help of documents released by Harrods, the Guardian was able to discover the story of how the group of paid Tory MPs were organised to lobby for the firm's owner, bombarding ministers with letters, questions, parliamentary motions, delegations, and attacks on Al Fayed's rival at Lonrho, Tiny Rowland.

Greer, who organised them, could claim a certain amount of political success: one inspector stood down from a Lonrho-inspired DTI inquiry into Al Fayed after protests about conflicts of interest; when the damning DTI report was eventually completed, the Government blocked its publication; and when its contents were finally revealed, Ministers agreed to take no action against Al Fayed.

Hamilton can be seen on the record, asking a parliamentary question on Febru-

His firm had 50 staff at its height

ary 27 1987, and tabling an early day motion on March 10 1987 deploring parliamentary attacks on his patron.

One of the more damning pieces of evidence the Guardian intended to present at trial was that, shortly before he asked Al Fayed for a free holiday at the Paris Ritz, Hamilton wrote to the Stock Exchange chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison, urging him to investigate Al Fayed's enemies, the Lonrho company. Hamilton described himself writing "as vice-chairman of the Conservative Trade and Industry Committee."

He then sent a copy of the letter to Al Fayed on July 23 1987, writing: "I have now been elected Secretary of the Conservative Finance Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Trade and Industry Committee, all of which gives me a better position from which to act on your behalf."

On July 29 1987, Hamilton and Hordern met DTI minister David Young and lobbied on Harrods' behalf.

Shortly afterwards, Hamilton invited himself to stay at the Ritz with his wife Christine, a "private" offer that Greer had initially made to the MPs who were lobbying for the hotel's owner, including Smith, Grylls, Bowden and Hordern.

On his return, Hamilton wrote to the DTI on November 21 1987, pleading Fayed's case in the on-going DTI inquiry. On December 14 1987, Michael Grylls, Hordern and Smith went in a delegation to the ministry to lobby further. Hamilton was unable to join the group for once, and wrote profuse apologies to Al Fayed.

Hamilton wrote to the DTI again on January 28 1988, and tabled two more parliamentary questions on May 27 1988 querying the cost of the inquiry. On July 12 1988, Hamilton tabled an early day motion condemning "libellous and vicious propaganda" against Mr Al Fayed, and stepped up the pressure with another letter on July 29 1988. He continued to send letters and make parliamentary interventions on Al Fayed's behalf until December 6 1989, when he wrote to the Home Secretary pressing for action against two police officers he named and accused of leaking an uncomplimentary DTI report about Mr Al Fayed.

'He was persistent in asking for his envelope'

THE WITNESSES

Thousands of pounds in cash handed over at Park Lane office

THREE long-standing employees of Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed declare in witness statements prepared for the libel action that Neil Hamilton regularly collected envelopes containing thousands of pounds in cash from Mr Al Fayed's Park Lane office.

□ The Personal Assistant

NEIL Hamilton persistently asked for money from Mohamed Al Fayed and would visit his Mayfair office in person to collect envelopes stuffed with banknotes, according to Mr Al Fayed's former personal assistant.

Before a trip with his wife to the Ritz Hotel in Paris, Mr Hamilton had collected between £2,000 and £3,000 in cash from Mr Al Fayed's office, the former assistant claims in her statement.

The woman, who now works for a London law firm, was employed as a personal assistant to Mr Al Fayed at his Park Lane office from 1981 to 1994. In the mid-eighties she met lobbyist Ian Greer, who she understood was retained as an adviser to Mr Al Fayed after the acquisition of the House of Fraser. In addition to invoiced payments, Mr Greer would receive sums of £5,000 in cash quarterly, and would, she claims, phone to ask whether Mr Al Fayed had left an envelope for him.

"Mr Hamilton was as persistent, if not more so, in asking for his envelope," she says in her statement. "He would sometimes say he was stopping by at very short notice to pick up the envelope."

The former assistant said that from 1987 onwards, Mr Hamilton phoned the Park Lane office on numerous occasions to ask whether his envelope was ready and would then come by to pick it up. She had seen Mr Al Fayed fill the envelopes with money personally.

"If no envelope was ready, I would inform Mr Al Fayed of Mr Hamilton's call and Mr Al Fayed would, in my presence, place cash in an envelope for me to arrange for delivery to Mr Hamilton or instruct me to get an envelope and place the cash in the envelope for Mr Hamilton. This happened on several occasions."

She also recalled the occasion when Mr Hamilton phoned to say that Mr Al Fayed said he should visit the Ritz Hotel in Paris and that his wife, Christine, would be in touch to make the necessary arrangements.

"Mrs Christine Hamilton telephoned me and told me the dates they intended to travel to Paris. I then booked a room at the hotel for the Hamiltons."

"Prior to Mr Hamilton's departure for Paris, Mr Al Fayed asked me to leave an envelope containing between £2,000 and £3,000 ... Mr Hamilton collected the envelope from the reception desk at 60 Park Lane."

Mohamed Al Fayed

'Mr Al Fayed phoned me from Harrods and told me to bring £5,000 in cash as he was expecting Mr Hamilton to meet him there'

Secretary for Mr Al Fayed

Christine Hamilton

□ The Secretary

MOHAMED Al Fayed prepared bundles of banknotes to the value of £2,500 before visits from Neil Hamilton, one of Mr Al Fayed's secretaries recalls in her statement. She says the Conservative MP was a "frequent visitor" to Mr Al Fayed's Park Lane office.

The Park Lane meetings between the two men were at one time as frequent as several times a month, she claims, and the two men would converse frequently on the phone. They also met at Harrods.

"I remember on several occasions that prior to a meeting with Mr Hamilton, Mr Al Fayed would make a remark to the effect that he was coming to collect his money and would prepare an envelope for him with a bundle of £2,500 notes in my presence," states the secretary who has worked for Mr Al Fayed since 1979.

"I also remember an occasion when Mr Al Fayed telephoned me from Harrods and told me to bring £5,000 in cash as he was expecting Mr Hamilton to meet him there," she adds. "There was at least one occasion when I left an envelope containing cash at the reception at 60 Park Lane for collection by Mr Neil Hamilton."

□ The Security Man

NEIL Hamilton would collect envelopes from the front desk at Mr Al Fayed's Park Lane office, according to a security officer who has worked for Mr Al Fayed for 16 years. Ian Greer would also come to the office to pick up envelopes, he recalled.

"On at least two occasions when I was sitting at the front desk, an envelope was brought down to me from Mr Al Fayed's office and I was informed that Mr Hamilton would be stopping by to collect the envelope," he says in his statement.

"On each of these occasions, Mr Hamilton came personally to the front desk and told me his name and then asked if I had an envelope for him. Because I recognised Mr Hamilton, I would hand over the envelope to him."

The security officer recalls: "Ian Greer also appeared at the front desk occasionally asking for an envelope." He would hand envelopes to him.

Settlement represents second libel victory over a senior Conservative

Owen Bowcott

YESTERDAY'S settlement of Neil Hamilton's case against the Guardian represents the newspaper's second libel victory against a senior member of the Conservative Party within the last 18 months.

In January last year, Paul Judge, director general of the Conservative Party, lost his claim that he had been defamed by a report on delays in accounting for political donations from the fugitive businessman Asil Nadir.

The High Court case followed an article on the Guardian's front page in September 1993, which alleged that Conservative Central Office was guilty of "obstruction" and "old tricks" in failing to respond speedily to accountants' inquiries.

The trustees in Mr Nadir's personal bankruptcy were said to be considering judicial proceedings to force Central Office to reply to their inquiries about £440,000 given to the party by the Turkish Cypriot tycoon between 1985 and 1990.

In court, Neil Cooper, one of the bankruptcy trustees, gave evidence to the seven day hearing confirming that he had called in his solicitor after failing to obtain answers from Mr Judge.

On one of the Central Office replies, he had written: "Typical delaying tactics".

Mr Cooper agreed that, as stated in the newspaper article, he felt he had no further alternative but to commence legal proceedings.

After retiring for four hours, the High Court jury returned a majority verdict of 10 to two in favour of the Guardian.

Mr Judge was also ordered to pay both sides' legal costs, estimated at £300,000.

THE NOLAN INQUIRY

Sleaze inquiry side-stepped main issues of Ritz bill and cash for questions allegations amid rowing and claims of favouritism

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

FIVE days after the Guardian revealed that Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith had been paid thousands of pounds by the Harrods owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, to ask parliamentary questions, John Major announced the setting up of the Nolan Committee to investigate sleaze.

What followed in Parliament and during the Nolan Committee hearings last year was designed to smother rather than reveal the circumstances surrounding the payments and the details of Mr Hamilton's six-day stay at the Ritz Hotel, Paris, owned by Mr Fayed.

The Nolan Committee's own terms of reference precluded any investigation into the Ritz hotel or the cash-for-questions scandal. Instead, the Members' Interests Committee was to examine a complaint against Mr Hamilton brought by Alex Carlile, Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery.

The Commons Privileges Committee decided to examine another complaint against Peter Preston, then editor in chief of the Guardian, for using a "cod fax" to verify the stay of another minister, Jonathan Aitken, at the Ritz. But none of the committees carried out a proper investigation.

The Members' Interests Committee, chaired by Tory grandee and former broadcaster, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, already had an inglorious history in this area. During an inquiry into parliamentary lobbying in 1989, it allowed Ian Greer to keep secret two of the three MPs he had paid for introducing business. It is now known that one of the MPs who received money from Mr Greer was Neil Hamilton.

Within a month of starting the inquiry into the Ritz stay and cash payments, the committee was in uproar when a newly appointed member, Government whip Andrew Mitchell, argued that none of the witnesses need be called.

Labour MPs were livid that a Government Whip had been appointed who appeared to be more interested in protecting Mr Hamilton than getting to the bottom of the issue. Mr Mitchell was the son of former transport minister, Sir David Mitchell, who gave Mr Hamilton his first leg-up to political office by appointing him his "bag carrier" — or unpaid Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Tempers flared when Labour MP Dale Campbell Savours turned up at the committee to protest about Mr Mitchell's role. He was reported to the Speaker and banned from the committee.

It still refused to take evidence from Mr Al Fayed or investigate the cash payments because of the impending libel action started by Mr Hamilton against the Guardian.

As a result Labour MPs refused to sign the report and walked out. The final report — signed only by Tory MPs — found he should have declared the hotel stay but proposed no penalties.

The action moved to the Privileges Committee, which again tried to limit its inquiry solely to a complaint brought against Peter Preston over the use of a "cod fax".

But here MPs succeeded in calling Mr Al Fayed. Members were given a statement read out by his lawyer, George Carman, detailing for the first time detailed payments to Mr Hamilton. They were shocked to find that these had been sent to Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith a year previously and nothing had been done about it.

But again the committee decided to keep the evidence secret because of the impending libel trial and without the last-minute intervention from David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill, the papers would have disappeared from view when both committees were wound up as a result of the Nolan report.

It was only his initial refusal to sign the final report which led a reluctant Tony Newton, chairman and Leader of the House of Commons, to pass the papers to the new parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey.

Richard Norton-Taylor on a wartime embarrassment

Wodehouse 'an ass rather than a traitor'

PG WODEHOUSE, creator of Jeeves and Bertie Wooster, was a "silly ass" with no political sense, whose broadcasts to the US from Germany during the second world war were the actions of a vain and selfish man rather than a traitor, as his detractors claimed..

This judgment by a Home Office official was revealed yesterday when secret documents, including voluminous MI5 files, were released at the Public Record Office. The records show how the most English of comic writers was a huge embarrassment to the government desperate to prevent him returning to his native land.

However, they also reveal that Wodehouse and his wife, Ethel, received substantial payments from the Germans during the war. One report refers to a description of him in a Gestapo file in Paris as "the English Goethe".

"Although I imagine his political intelligence and perhaps his knowledge of opinion in this country is very limited, I should think he must know enough to be aware that his position here will be to say the least unpleasant," an exasperated Home Office official told the home secretary, Herbert Morrison, in 1943.

"If the rat has enough intelligence to leave the sinking ship, I should suspect he must have enough intelligence not to put himself within the jaws of the British mastiff," he said, anticipating a public clamour for Wodehouse to be tried for treason. Such a trial, he said, would be "too big a hammer for the cracking of this nut".

"They should stay where they are," said Morrison in a handwritten note.

Berlin calling

WODEHOUSE recorded five broadcasts in Berlin in 1941, which he described as "purely comic in tone". The following are extracts.

"They sent us off to the local lunatic asylum at Tost in Upper Silesia... There is a good deal to be said for internment... It keeps you out of the saloon... You also get a lot of sleep."

"There was a camp order that ran, 'When internees are standing in groups, the first to see an officer must shout, 'Achtung'... A man can have a lot of quiet fun by shouting 'Achtung' and watching his friends reach for the seams of their trousers and assume an erect bearing, when there is not an officer within miles".

"One lives on potatoes and rumours... a rumour a day kept depression away, so they served their purpose... Germany at that time was like the old woman who lived in a shoe. She had so many adopted children that she didn't know what to do with them."

A year later, another unidentified Home Office official noted that Wodehouse could excuse himself by saying he made the broadcasts, not to help the enemy, but "for purely personal and egotistical reasons".

The official added: "I agree with the view that PGW is a person without politcial sense, who lives in a world of his own, and is only interested in creating humourous characters and incidents to please himself and his book-buying public. He was a 'silly ass' and a 'selfish ass' to broadcast, but there seems no point in trying to charge such an ass with treason."

The picaresque saga began in Le Touquet in May 1940 when Plum, as Wodehouse was known, and his wife, Ethel, were arrested by the Germans.

Wodehouse was sent to a camp in Upper Silesia — which provided the material for his essentially whimsical broadcasts — before he and his wife were put up at the Hotel Adlon in Berlin. Subsequently they moved to the opulent Hotel Bristol in Paris.

The Home Office permanent secretary, Sir Frank Newsam, took the view that the broadcasts "would never have been arranged unless the Nazis had thought that it would benefit them". Wodehouse insisted in a letter to Sir Anthony Eden, the foreign secretary, that "I was guilty of nothing more than a blunder... It was an insane thing to do".

The papers reveal the fury of Duff Cooper, appointed British ambassador to France in October 1944, when he heard that Wodehouse and his wife were staying at the Hotel Bristol, an establishment, Cooper noted, that was supposed to be reserved for the diplomatic corps.

A British diplomat cabled London: "We do not want Mr W here". Morrison replied: "Wodehouse should stay in France."

Wodehouse was briefly arrested by the French as a collaborator. He was released in January 1945 and moved to Long Island, New York, in 1947.

A Whitehall official noted that he was glad to see "a source of embarrassment removed".

Wodehouse was knighted by Harold Wilson in 1975, and died a month later, aged 94.

PG in Berlin... The creator of Jeeves with German official Hugo Speck on June 26, 1941, the day he agreed to broadcast to the US, and below, the Home Office's judgment on the prospects of Wodehouse returning to his native land

avoid coming to Great Britain. If the rat has enough intelligence to leave the sinking ship I should suspect he must have enough intelligence not to put himself within the jaws of the British mastiff.

Maze anger puts loyalist ceasefire in jeopardy

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE LOYALIST ceasefire in Northern Ireland was in the balance last night after more than 100 Maze prisoners withdrew support for the peace process.

The Ulster Defence Association and Ulster Freedom Fighters inmates summoned representatives of their political wing, the Ulster Democratic Party, to the prison yesterday afternoon.

The UDA prisons spokesman John White said the decision left the the ceasefire, which will be two years old in a fortnight's time, in "dire crisis". Inmates believed that the Stormont all-party talks were going nowhere and that the IRA was using paramilitary action as a tactic alongside the peace process.

The inmates were quite clear that they were going to withdraw their support from the ceasefire. "This is causing us great concern because of the very important role they played in brokering the loyalist ceasefire. This is the most critical point we have come to," Mr White said.

The party chairman, Joe English, said he was saddened but not surprised by the news. "It's mainly due to the manipulation of the peace process by Sinn Fein/IRA who, putting all the theory aside have in practice been continuing the war."

It is not known how Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners will respond, but one insider said that it was far from certain that they would follow suit immediately.

However the consequences could be catastrophic, with loyalists and republicans restarting the cycle of violence from which the province has been largely free since September 1994.

The support of loyalist prisoners just 72 hours before their ceasefire was called in October 1994 was critical. "There wouldn't have been a ceasefire without them," said a senior loyalist last night.

Enthusiasm for the ceasefire has ebbed as promises of early releases faded and the political direction taken by the British government was perceived as moving towards a nationalist agenda. Since the IRA ceasefire ended in February more and more loyalists have been questioning the merit of continuing their own cessation.

With every perceived "concession" — from the fixing of a date for the commencement of all-party talks to even the funding of a Gaelic-language school in west Belfast — the pressure has grown, driven by the belief that violence was yet again reaping its reward.

In the aftermath of the serious civil unrest created by the Orange stand-off at Drumcree this summer, the Combined Loyalist Military Command — the umbrella leadership group — ordered two hardliners, Billy Wright and Alex Kerr, to leave Northern Ireland or face "summary justice". Some loyalists who share the two men's views believe that the leadership had merely delayed the inevitable return to the campaign of violence.

● Renegade republicans were yesterday accused of attempting to blow up the centre of Belfast as police confirmed that a car bomb which was detonated by the security forces on Sunday evening contained 250lb of home-made explosives.

A republican splinter group calling itself the Irish Continuity Army abandoned the car near the centre of Belfast. There were two phone warnings to a newspaper without a recognised codeword.

Details of the Belfast car bomb emerged as David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, accused John Major of making gestures to get Sinn Fein into talks. The British were adopting a Dublin agenda in trying to "bury" the decommissioning issue.

The announcement ends several weeks of optimism that the UUP and the SDLP were close to agreeing a formula which would lead to substantive talks.

● Four men appeared in at Belmarsh magistrates' court, south-east London, yesterday charged with conspiring to cause an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious damage to property, and possession of explosives. Brian McHugh, Patrick Pearse Joseph Kelly, James Murphy and Michael Phillips were remanded until October 9.

Duchess of York turns to lawyers as tapes lay bare her varied sex life and hatred of royals

Vivek Chaudhary

LAWYERS representing the Duchess of York are considering legal action to halt further publication of taped conversations in which she reveals details about her sex life, financial problems and her views on the royal family.

Extracts from the tapes, which contain personal conversations between the duchess and psychic healer Vasso Kortesis, have been carried in tabloid newspapers over the past few days. The tapes are also being played on premium 0891 phone line numbers.

Lawyers from Schilling and Lom, which represents the duchess, spent most of yesterday formulating their response.

They are also believed to be planning legal action against the book The Duchess of York, Uncensored, which is written by Ms Kortesis and reveals further details of their private conversations.

The book contains allegations that the duchess had sex with former lover Steve Wyatt while she was five months pregnant and that she first wondered if her marriage to Prince Andrew had been a mistake 24 hours after the wedding.

The tapes also feature conversations between Ms Kortesis and Prince Andrew. In one extract he is recorded as saying that he hopes his marriage can be saved. Ms Kortesis tells him that the duchess has "never been with anybody else apart from you".

In one of the tapes, the duchess reveals her desperate financial situation and that she wishes to see the whole royal family die.

The duchess also accuses former lover John Bryan of "ruining" her life and Mr Wyatt of being a "creep" and a "bastard". She also tells Ms Kortesis that her father, Major Ronald Ferguson, is "a madman."

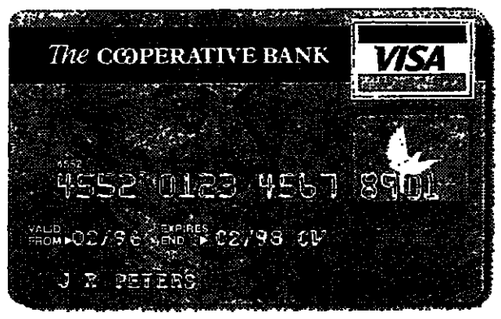
The tapes show that the duchess clasified the men in her life according to numbers. Mr Wyatt is number one, Andrew two, Mr Bryan three and John Kennedy Junior nine.

The controversy surrounding the tapes comes at a time when the duchess is facing crippling financial problems and a legal battle over another book which threatens to further publicise her private life. The duchess has already spent £150,000 fighting publication of a book by former friend Alan Starkie and could face a legal bill of more than £1 million if she loses.

The duchess is reputedly on the verge of bankruptcy and is paying around £30,000 on bank interest charges on a £4 million overdraft.

Pass Notes, G2, page 3

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK



7.9% APR
GUARANTEED UNTIL APRIL '97

The rate is *unbeatable*, the card is free.

UK's lowest credit card rate
No annual fee
Just 10.9% APR variable from April '97
Keep your credit limit
No need to bank with us

Do you tend to borrow on your credit card? Then this Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa Credit Card is for you. Just look at the incredible deal on offer, starting with the UK's lowest APR by far: just 7.9%.

This is guaranteed until April '97 and works out at only 0.64% per month. After that, you'll still only pay a super-low 10.9% APR variable (0.87% per month). Typically, you're looking at saving £550 over two years!*

More good news: we'll match your highest current credit card limit, and we won't charge you a fee for your card. You don't have to bank with us, so call us free now.

Post to: Visa dept., The Co-operative Bank p.l.c., FREEPOST (MR8192), Manchester M1 9AZ or phone 0800 00 24 07 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please use block capitals.
Full name _____ Address _____
Postcode _____ Phone number (inc. STD) _____ 75601

0800 00 24 07

LIMITED OFFER - APPLY NOW. CALL FREE 7 DAYS, 24 HOURS, QUOTING REF.75601.

THE BANK MAY DECLINE ANY APPLICATION. CREDIT FACILITIES ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND NOT AVAILABLE TO MINORS. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL BE PASSED TO A CREDIT REFERENCE AGENCY FOR CREDIT ASSESSMENT. A COPY OF THE ENQUIRY MAY BE RETAINED.
*TYPICAL EXAMPLE IS BASED ON A BALANCE OF £1,000 THAT REMAINS CONSTANT OVER 24 MONTHS. BARCLAYS BANK VISA CARD @ 22.3% APR WOULD COST £1179.20. NAT WEST VISA CARD @ 21.9% APR WOULD COST £1149.28. THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK VISA CARD @ 10.9% APR WOULD COST £624.40.

Clear your debts and make a fresh start with our new lower rates.

11.9% APR For loans of £10,000+

13.9% APR For loans of £3,000 - £9,900

Before you know it, credit and bills can add up... leaving you to pay out more than you planned each month.

But now you can 'wipe the slate clean' and make a fresh start with a Homeowner Loan from Lloyds Bowmaker.

Because the loan is secured by a mortgage on your property, you can also choose to spread the repayments over a longer period (up to 15 years) to leave you with just one simple, more manageable payment each month.

So why not check the table to see just how little you could be paying?

NEW LOWER RATES

APR VARIABLE	LOAN	MONTHLY REPAYMENTS WITHOUT COVER 180 MONTHS	120 MONTHS	60 MONTHS	WITH SINGLE COVER 180 MONTHS	120 MONTHS	60 MONTHS
11.9%	£15,000	174.05	209.83	328.96	194.93	235.01	368.43
	£10,000	116.03	139.89	219.30	129.96	156.67	245.62
13.9%	£8,000	102.08	120.22	182.70	114.33	134.65	204.62
	£5,000	63.80	75.14	114.19	71.46	84.16	127.89

Typical Example: Borrow £10,000 over 5 years at 11.9% APR (variable) and your monthly repayments will be just £219.30 with a total repayment of £13,158.00. Loans are secured by a mortgage on your property.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

ALL THE REASSURANCE YOU NEED.

As we are a subsidiary of Lloyds Bank, you can rest assured that you're in dependable and responsible hands.

We will never encourage you to borrow more than you can comfortably afford. After all, we're here to help you keep more money in your pocket!

For your extra peace of mind, optional Payment Protection Plan could cover your repayments in the event of your death, illness, accident, compulsory redundancy or alternatively hospitalisation (if self-employed).

IT'S SO EASY TO APPLY.

Applying for a Lloyds Bowmaker Homeowner Loan is simple - and you don't have to be a Lloyds Bank customer!

To make a fresh start, call us FREE 9am - 9pm Monday to Friday, 10am - 5pm Saturday on 0800 378151.

We can give you an immediate decision in principle there and then.

Alternatively, return the coupon for more information.

A written quotation is always available on request.

Remember, you are under no obligation at all, and there are no interviews or arrangement fees.

CALL FREE ON 0800 378151
9AM - 9PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10AM - 5PM SATURDAY

YES I own my own home. Please tell me how a Lloyds Bowmaker Homeowner Loan could help reduce my monthly outgoings and leave more money in my pocket! My current commitments are up to date. Post this today to: Lloyds Bowmaker Limited (DL), Waverley House, FREEPOST, Bournemouth, BH8 8BR. You don't need a stamp. Or fax this coupon to us on 01202 296327.

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)
Address:
Postcode:
Tel. Day: (STD code) Tel. Evening: (STD code)

The information you provide may be used and disclosed, in our marketing operations, for research, to assess credit information for credit decisions, for fraud prevention and tracing of debtors, to associated companies who may send you details about their products and services and to credit reference agencies to carry out a search and a record that their search was made will be shown on any later search. Offer applies to UK residents only.

Lloyds Bowmaker

019/M15/1.96

Survivor Harman still on executive

Harriet Harman . . . escaped punishment for her controversial decision on son's schooling PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

HARRIET Harman, the shadow social service secretary, escaped punishment for her controversial decision on her son's schooling yesterday when she retained her post on Labour's ruling national executive.

Although her vote was down from 69,029 to 58,112, the drop was not as big as her supporters had feared.

She was helped by the rule that insists three of the seven members elected by the constituency parties have to be women.

She had been beaten by Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, and Ken Livingstone, the left-wing backbencher, but they were denied a place because of the rule on women.

Ms Harman said: "I am absolutely delighted. It is tremendous support from the party to be back on. It has been a very difficult year and I feel I can absolutely put it all behind me now. There are votes from up and down the country."

Labour backbenchers were almost universally angry with her early this year when she decided not to send her child to a local comprehensive but to a selective school in a neighbouring borough.

The Labour leader, Tony Blair, rejected pressure at the time to remove her from the shadow cabinet.

There had been predictions too that Mr Straw might also suffer from the controversies over his hard-line law and order stance — the received wisdom being that it was unpopular with the party rank and file. But Mr Straw increased his vote from 58,486 to 64,547.

There was little change overall in the constituency section. The shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, confirmed his popularity, with his vote rising from 85,670 last year to 109,801. The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, was also re-elected, his vote rising from 79,371 to 93,679

Others re-elected in this section were Diane Abbot, David Blunkett, Mo Mowlam and Dennis Skinner, all with increased votes. The loudest cheer at the conference greeted Mr Skinner's vote.

Mr Blunkett, who got the second highest number of votes, said: "I am very pleased with the result.

"It shows that the ordinary Labour Party membership recognises the importance of raising standards in schools and Labour's policies for training and employment which I have been setting out over the last year."

Re-elected were frontbenchers Margaret Beckett and Clare Short, Brenda Etchells, an official of the engingeering union, the AEU, and Diana Jeuda, an official of USDAW.

Miss Short has had a turbulent few months, caught up in controversies that saw her demoted from shadow transport spokesman to shadow overseas development spokesman, but the vote demonstrated her continuing popularity, increasing from 17.5 to 18.6 per cent.

Mr Blair, will be basically pleased with the outcome, which sees most of his supporters in place.

In a battle between two frontbenchers, Ian McCartney and Alun Michael, for the one place elected by the socialist societies, Mr Blair would have been happy with either, as both are in the centre of the party.

Mr McCartney, the party's employment spokesman, raised his profile over the last year by campaigning against 'fat cats' and on the minimum wage and has been rewarded with an NEC place. He is close to the deputy leader, John Prescott.

In the women's section, Hilary Armstrong, the local government spokesman and a former parliamentary private secretary to John Smith, was elected.

There was little change in the executive members chosen by the trade unions.

John Allen, of the AEEU engineering union, and Steve Pickering, of the GMB general union, won seats for the first time.

Results

Seven members were elected for the NEC constituency section by a postal ballot of party members — all existing NEC members:

Robin Cook — 109,801 (polled 85,670 last year); **David Blunkett** — 94,096 (75,984); **Gordon Brown** — 93,679 (79,371); **Dennis Skinner** — 73,390 (64,288); **Marjorie Mowlam** — 68,271 (53,578); **Harriet Harman** — 58,112 (69,029); **Diane Abbott** — 54,800 (45,653).

Those not elected were:

Jack Straw — 64,547 (58,486); Ken Livingstone — 58,593 (53,423); Peter Hain — 42,169 (32,394); Tam Dalyell — 35,790 (30,705); Alice Mahon — 32,462 (29,212); Lynne Jones — 31,353 (did not stand last year); Joyce Quin — 28,407 (21,903); Jeremy Corbyn — 25,529 (22,457); Angela Eagle — 22,431 (21,857); Jean Bishop — 21,160 (did not stand last year); Alan Simpson — 18,125 (12,409); Suzanne L'Estrange — 9,737 (7,787); Kevin Cluskey — 5,815 (did not stand last year).

Castle declares war in pensions figures fight

The Guardian Debate

Seumas Milne

BARBARA Castle yesterday lashed out at the "Saatchi and Saatchi tactics" she claimed Labour leaders were using in their efforts to convince trade unions and constituency delegates to oppose her call for the restoration of the link between pensions and earnings.

"This is war," the former Labour cabinet minister said after debating the issue at a Guardian fringe meeting in Blackpool. "They're fighting dirty because they're frightened." Her remarks came as the pensioners' leader, Jack Jones, insisted he had made no deal with the Labour leadership over its proposal for a pensions review.

She had been debating with Frank Field, chairman of the Commons social security select committee, and Patricia Hewitt, former deputy chairwoman of the Social Justice Commission and now a Labour parliamentary candidate for Leicester West.

The outcome of the campaign championed by Lady Castle and Mr Jones, president of the National Pensioners' Convention, hung in the balance as party officials horse-traded with union and pensioners' leaders over two unwanted motions backing a restored link.

Lady Castle's outburst came in response to claims by Harriet Harman, the shadow social services secretary, that Lady Castle's proposals would involve "raiding" the national insurance subsidies currently made to occupational pension members to the tune of £550 a year each.

That line, with its implication that many union members would be hit by the plans, was being enthusiastically fed by party officials to union delegations, many of whom have yet to make up their minds how to vote in the key debate tomorrow.

Lady Castle dismissed the £550 figure as "entirely fabricated" for the purpose of "frightening the unions" and said there was no proposal whatever for diverting the occupational pension subsidy in the plan she had drawn up with Professor Peter Townsend.

That includes an immediate boost to the basic state pension and the restoration of both the pension-earnings link and a revamped Serps, the state earnings-related pension scheme founded by Lady Castle in the 1970s.

Meanwhile, Mr Jones — the former Transport and General Workers' Union leader — insisted he had made no deal with the Labour leadership over its pensions policy and that the national executive proposal for a review of the issue after the election did not go far enough to win his support.

Several key unions have yet to finalise their attitude. The TGWU and Unison, the public services union, are due to meet today to agree their positions on the two constituency motions backing Lady Castle's proposals, which the party leadership wants to see remitted — sent to the national executive for further consideration — or rejected.

The GMB general union is already committed to voting for the two earnings-link motions unless the movers agree to their remission. Party officials are still hoping that the two London constituency delegates involved, representing Ealing Southall and Poplar and Canning town, might be convinced not to press their motions to a vote.

From a formal constitutional point of view, the party leadership can fall back on the fact that the national executive statement on pensions would take precedence over any contrary motions passed at the conference. But party sources said that the problem was made worse by the fact that the two constituency motions pressed a whole range of demands which went far beyond party policy.

Sinister conspiracy theories falling into a flat spin

Review

Peter Preston

Have They Got News For You
Panorama, BBC1

WHO bit the biters? Who out-spun the spinners? The poor old lumbering BBC, that's who; the bureaucratic brontosaurus of Shepherd's Bush.

Political Britain switched on to the most hyped Panorama of the year. Alistair Campbell had taken a pre-emptive page in the Sunday Times to get his foaming retaliation in first. Peter Mandelson had co-opted a page-and-a-half of Saturday's Guardian to plead Innocent of Duplicity, guv.

They feared a savage hatchet-job. But all they (and we) got were a few taps with a foam hammer. And all Panorama got, I expect, was exceptionally good audience figures. Quite easily spun.

Mr Campbell began shooting himself in the foot a fortnight ago. "Even my mum asked me the other day what a spin doctor is, so heaven knows what the viewers will make of it", he huffed to the ST before breaking into full rant.

BBC Educational Programming has taken care of that now. Mrs Campbell Senior can see that Alistair whispers in reporters' ears, juts his jaw rather bad-temperedly, and bellyaches down the phone. She can also see that Alistair's friend, Peter, serves crisps with a nice cheese dip. It's a job, one supposes: but neither of them exactly looked masters of the universe.

There was, in honest boredom, rather a lot of fairness and balance around. We heard almost as much about (and from) Tory manipulators as about Labour's supposed demon kings. Even Liberal spin interns got a mention.

Good political correspondents (including Guardian ones) complained of bullying and harassment. Familiar television faces explained some of the tricks of the trade — including tediously unreportable Blair questions in Parliament to avoid knocking his own morning manifesto launch off the TV evening news.

It was instructive enough: a GCSE course in the things politicians get up to and the men who guard the minefields. But it wound up painfully short of conclusions. Was all this twisty stuff a further alienation of the ordinary voter? Or are voters quite savvy enough to blow away the chaff themselves?

The sinister conspiracy theory wasn't exactly helped by having Tony Benn as chief propounder. (Who was it who first hired Bernard Ingham as his press officer?) And, once Michael Brunson of ITN calmly explained how journalists could simply tell the spinners to push off, conspiracy further deflated.

That, though, was because Panorama had really missed the point. Journalists don't like the threats and the feeding of stories like tubes of Smarties. But they will survive. The people who are truly paranoid about the spinners are backbenchers of all the big parties, and frontbenchers outside the loop of trust or confidence.

They, in galloping paranoia, feel themselves non-persons of nil worth. They don't get on television. They don't get promotion. They are there only to shut up and turn up.

I think they exaggerate: but not much. The messengers and the message pass them by. Their alienation is total. John Major, spinning feebly on a European wicket, can feel that already. Tony Blair in office will be similarly impaled the moment things go wrong. A conspiracy by some politicians against other politicians? Disloyalty guaranteed?

I hope Alistair's mum knows that jam today can swiftly be in-a-jam tomorrow.

'End of socialism' MP finds new target in attack on British film-makers for shunning blockbusters

Dan Glaister, Arts Correspondent

LAST month he had it in for socialism, claiming the s-word was a mere "epithet" that "should be humanely phased out". Yesterday, Dr Kim Howells, Labour MP for Pontypridd, attacked sections of the British film-making community as a "miserable bunch of chattering classes" who in fact see British films as fulfilling some kind of cultural role and very often they're ashamed to be associated with hugely profitable films, like Independence Day or Twister or whatever."

He told a fringe meeting in Blackpool that they were "ashamed" of making Hollywood-style blockbusters. "We have kind of talked ourselves into making literary films. Part of the reason for that, I think, is because it's run by a very small, miserable bunch of chattering classes who in fact see British films as fulfilling some kind of cultural role and very often they're ashamed to be associated with hugely profitable films, like Independence Day or Twister or whatever."

Dr Howells, a former fine arts student, trade unionist and member of the Communist Party, is now seen as an arch-Blairite.

The films he mentions were condemned at their release for their intellectually challenged storylines. Independence Day has taken over £32 million in the UK in the six weeks since its release, while Twister has taken more than £14 million in eight weeks.

His criticism of literary film-making may be misplaced. At number four in this week's UK box-office chart is Emma, the latest adaptation of a Jane Austen novel.

Our early pledges are hard, practical and simple and will make a real difference in people's lives. Cutting class sizes in infant schools; reducing NHS waiting lists; cutting youth unemployment; curbing youth crime and strengthening the economy.

Tony Blair

Call our 24 hour membership hotline. Please quote ref: C15

0990 300 900

Labour

New rates from the Bristol & West.

PREMIER OPTION BOND

Interest rates effective from 1st October 1996

FIXED RATE OPTION - Issue E

INVESTMENT	GROSS PA** (FIXED)	NET PA*
	INTEREST PAID SIX MONTHLY	
£100,000+	4.90%	3.92%
£50,000+	4.90%	3.92%
£25,000+	4.70%	3.76%
£5,000 (MINIMUM)+	4.45%	3.56%
	INTEREST PAID MONTHLY	
£100,000+	4.79%	3.83%
£50,000+	4.79%	3.83%
£25,000+	4.60%	3.68%
£5,000 (MINIMUM)+	4.36%	3.49%

RATE GUARANTEE: Bristol & West guarantees that these rates are fixed until 31st March 1997.

NOTICE FOR PREMIER OPTION BOND (ISSUE F) HOLDERS

The Society is introducing revised Terms & Conditions to take effect from 1st November 1996. The purpose of this is to make the Terms & Conditions easier to understand, and to clarify the circumstances in which future changes to Terms & Conditions may be made and when interest rates may be varied. A copy of the revised Terms & Conditions is available from any of the Society's branches or from Head Office.

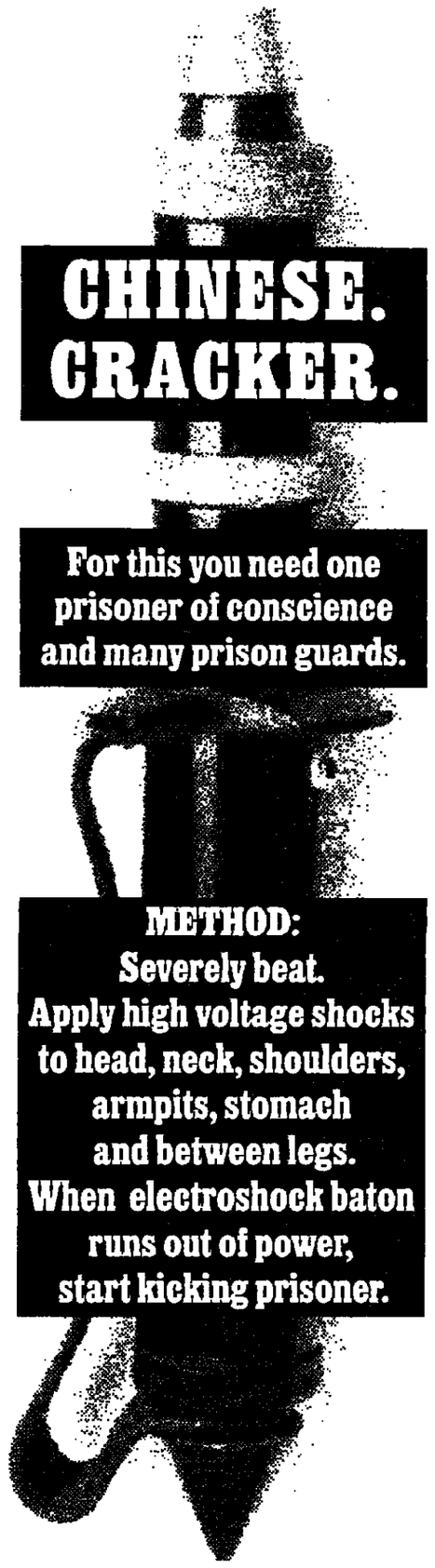
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST BRANCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

**Gross Rates are fixed as shown and do not take account of deductions of Income Tax. *Interest rates shown as Net are purely illustrative and assume tax @ 20%. The actual net amount receivable by an investor who has not registered for Gross interest will depend upon the rate of tax as required by legislation in force at the time interest is credited or paid out at period(s) in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Bond. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower or basic rate bands, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. If you are eligible to receive your interest without deduction of tax you should register on Inland Revenue form R85 which is available at all the Society's branches. For conditions of withdrawal see account Terms and Conditions. This account is not available for new investors. Rates correct at 1st October 1996. Bristol & West Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme, and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice.

BRISTOL & WEST

BRISTOL & WEST BUILDING SOCIETY

CHINESE. CRACKER.



For this you need one prisoner of conscience and many prison guards.

METHOD:
Severely beat.
Apply high voltage shocks to head, neck, shoulders, armpits, stomach and between legs.
When electroshock baton runs out of power, start kicking prisoner.

Tang Yuanjuan, a worker, was arrested in June 1989, for organising peaceful demonstrations.

He was sentenced to twenty years in prison.

In May 1991, Tang was severely beaten because he refused to acknowledge that he was a 'criminal'.

He was taken to a 'correction' unit where prison guards inflicted the tortures listed above.

If you are as angered by this story as we are, please help us stop torture.

Join us, or donate. Your support really does help. We have files of letters from ex-prisoners of conscience, saying how their treatment improved when we intervened.

Tang is still in prison. He still urgently needs our help.

Please join us or make a donation today.

I want to be a member of Amnesty International. Here's my membership fee:

£21 Individual ☐ £27 Family ☐ £7.50 Student ☐
Under 22 ☐ Claimant ☐ Senior Citizen ☐
I wish to donate £500 ☐ £250 ☐ £100 ☐
£50 ☐ £25 ☐ £10 ☐ Other ____

Please charge my Access/Visa/MasterCard number:

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Total ____ Signed ____
Card valid from ____ Expiry date ____
If you are paying by credit card, please give the address where you receive your credit card bill.
Mr/Ms ____
Address ____
____ Postcode ____
If you do not want to receive mailings from sympathetic organisations please tick this box ☐

To join or make a donation call
0345 611116
Calls are charged at local rates.
F69

TO: DEPT. AA AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK
FREEPOST, LONDON EC1B 1HE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Uncertainty dogs president's ability to pull rabbit out of the hat at unscripted summit

Mideast leaders head for US

Jonathan Freedland in Washington, Derek Brown in Jerusalem and John Palmer in Luxembourg

MIDDLE Eastern leaders converged on Washington last night for a hastily-arranged White House summit designed to revive the teetering peace process — amid signs of Arab disunity and European fears of an American cave-in to Israel.

After a day of frantic shuttling and last-minute demands for a delay, the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Palestinian Authority president, Yasser Arafat, and King Hussein of Jordan all headed to the United States, summoned by President Clinton after last week's clashes between Israelis and Palestinians.

In an apparent rift with Mr Arafat, who spent the day in talks in Egypt, the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, declined to attend the summit.

US officials worked hard all day yesterday to ensure that President Clinton's summit initiative — on which he has staked much US prestige — did not end in a humiliating rebuff. Mr Arafat had threatened not to attend, and Mr Mubarak was said to be offended by Israel's refusal of his offer to host the meeting in Cairo.

An Egyptian presidential adviser said the summit would go ahead in Washington tomorrow; the White House said it would begin today and probably include a session tomorrow.

Already in Washington, without demur, is Jordan's King Hussein, who has replaced President Mubarak as Israel's closest, if not most influential, friend in the region.

At the heart of the new disunity are Arab fears that the summit will focus exclusively on Israeli security concerns, at the expense of Palestinian demands for momentum to be restored to the peace process.

But US officials insisted yesterday that Washington has no agenda other than to end the violence and get the peace process back on track. "We think the United States has the ability to get them talking again," said the state department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, one of several officials who moved yesterday to lower expectations for the summit.

Speculation intensified that the most tangible result of the meeting will be a commitment from Mr Netanyahu to go ahead with Israel's partial withdrawal from the volatile West Bank town of Hebron.

The pullout, originally promised for March, has been repeatedly put off. The Israeli government says it wants significant changes in the redeployment plan, with greater security for Jewish settlers. Israeli officials say they can no longer rely on the protection of the Palestinian police, many of whom were involved in last week's clashes.

At a stopover in Amsterdam en route to Washington, Mr Netanyahu proposed nonstop talks with the Palestinians on Hebron.

"I am proposing that the two sides meet right after the meeting in Washington in a locale to be determined to engage in continuous negotiations until agreement is reached," he told reporters.

But the Palestinians have already reached agreement on the Hebron redeployment with Mr Netanyahu's predecessor — so a "concession" on these lines is unlikely to satisfy the Palestinians and their Arab allies.

After yesterday's Arafat-Mubarak meeting, officials said they wanted assurances that the summit would produce a firm Israeli commitment to carry out existing obligations, including a return to the land-for-peace principle rejected by Mr Netanyahu.

President Mubarak said that unless the Israeli prime minister honours his country's commitments, violence could resume.

Mr Mubarak also wants pressure on Israel to close the ancient Jerusalem tunnel whose opening led to last week's riots. Mr Netanyahu has vowed it will stay open.

After the Egypt meeting, Mr Arafat flew to Luxembourg for talks with European Union foreign ministers.

As Mr Arafat met three foreign ministers, led by Ireland's Dick Spring, there was pressure on the US to delay the meeting and extend an invitation to the EU — the largest source of economic aid to the Palestinians.

In Brussels there were fears that with the US presidential election imminent, Mr Clinton might be reluctant to push Mr Netanyahu to revive the peace process.

Although the EU has not publicly insisted on being included in the Washington summit, the French foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, said at the weekend that the absence of such an invitation sent a negative signal about the peace process.

Britain — whose foreign secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, also arrived in Luxembourg last night — shares the general European frustration with the Israeli stance but is not pressing as hard for an EU invitation to Washington.

Washington snub reopens rift across Atlantic

Europe is concerned that Washington is bowing to Israel's hard line, writes **John Palmer** in Brussels

EUROPEAN Union governments are increasingly nervous that the Clinton administration's submissiveness to hardline Israeli government policies is putting the entire Middle East peace process at risk.

Most EU leaders are also angered at what they see as attempts by Washington to elbow Europe out of participation in the Middle East summit, scheduled for Washington today to try to defuse a crisis that has seen 55 Palestinians and 14 Israelis die in the worst violence since the peace framework was agreed in 1993.

Last night, frantic diplomatic efforts were under way to ensure the EU — as the principal source of aid for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and adjacent countries — is included in a summit.

Both the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt are known to want EU involvement.

They believe Europe's presence will make it more difficult for the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, to avoid a public commitment on key issues such as the promised withdrawal of his army from the West Bank city of Hebron, and the closure of the Jerusalem tunnel whose opening near one of Islam's holiest sites caused the explosion of Palestinian anger.

The barely disguised differences between the United States and the EU over strategy on the Middle East peace process are only the latest in a series of policy divisions.

Legislation introduced by the US earlier this summer to deter international trade with Cuba and investment in Iran and Libya already threatens a full-scale diplomatic and commercial confrontation.

In the past two years the US and its European partners have also had to work hard to prevent policy divisions on Bosnia turning into a crisis for the Atlantic alliance.

On the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the two sides of the Atlantic were trying last night to limit their differences. But the EU will now insist that greater international pressure is put on the Netanyahu government to fulfil their side of the 1993 Oslo peace agreement.

A spokesman for the Irish EU presidency said in Brussels yesterday: "We have been kept very closely in touch with developments by [the US secretary of state] Warren Christopher. But as the EU presidency, the Irish government thought it right to meet with Mr Arafat and discuss the crisis in the region.

"I do not know whether we have formally asked for an invitation to the Washington summit. But you can safely assume that we would gladly take up any such invitation."

The French foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, said of the US refusal to include Europe in the Washington meeting: "This is certainly unfortunate. That is certainly not a positive step for things to go forward."

Senior German government sources made it clear that Bonn also believes that the EU, which played an important supporting role in helping to secure the Oslo agreement and which has committed most international aid to support the peace process, should be present in Washington.

Although Britain has traditionally taken a stronger line in supporting Palestinian rights than has the US, the Government initially seemed unconcerned by the EU's exclusion from the Washington summit.

> 'The US refusal to include Europe in the summit is unfortunate. It is certainly not a positive step'

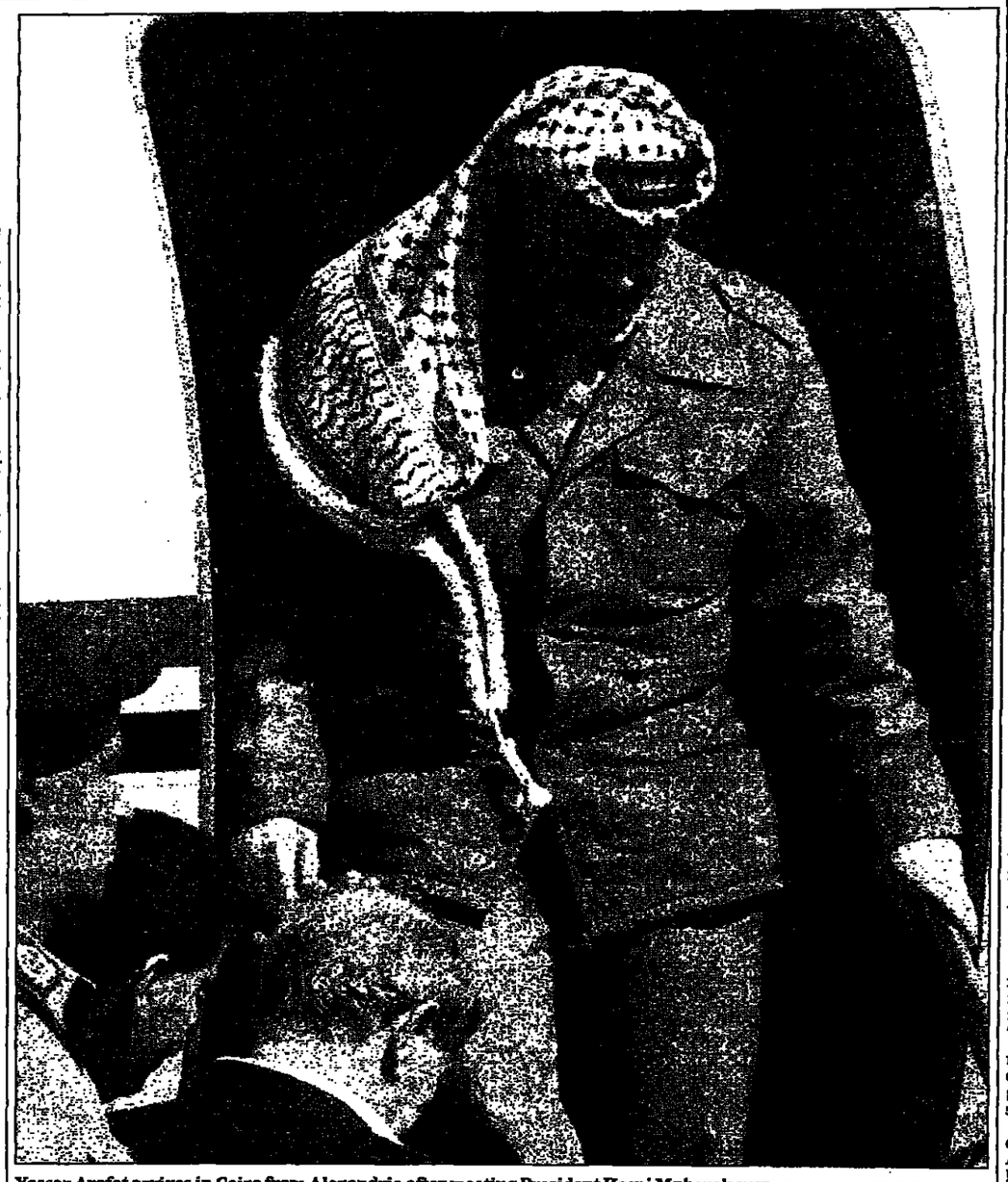
But last night the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, flew from Edinburgh to Luxembourg to be available, if needed, for the meeting between Mr Arafat and an EU presidency "troika" consisting of the foreign ministers of Ireland (the EU presidency), Italy (the previous presidency) and the Netherlands (the next presidency).

For his part, Mr De Charette let it be known that he would make sure he met the Palestinian leader during his Luxembourg stop-over.

As he arrived in Luxembourg for the meeting with Mr Arafat last night, the Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, said it was "essential for the Israeli government to send a clear signal that they are committed to the peace process and to its implementation".

He described President Mubarak's decision not to attend the summit as "unfortunate to say the least".

Mr Spring said: "The Egyptians have played a very important part in the peace process but we must await developments about President Mubarak's plans."



Yasser Arafat arrives in Cairo from Alexandria after meeting President Hosni Mubarak PHOTOGRAPH: MOHAMED EL-DAKHAKHNY

Critical policy test for Clinton

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

TODAY'S hastily-arranged summit of Middle Eastern leaders at the White House will be less telegenic than the last two, but it will represent a much sharper test for the host, President Clinton.

Unlike the September summits of 1993 and 1995 — where the Oslo I and II peace accords were signed — the outcome of today's meeting is utterly uncertain. Mr Clinton will not enjoy the luxury of presiding over a done deal; instead, it is largely up to him to make one happen.

The result will be an unusually clear window on the foreign policy methods of the Clinton White House. Critics predict the summit will expose once again a persistent weakness in international affairs: an unwillingness to put pressure on countries which cause trouble.

The Arab states and several European allies fear Mr Clinton is unlikely to lean on Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, sufficiently heavily to put the peace process back on track. Few observers believe Washington will persuade him to close the tunnel in Jerusalem whose opening last week triggered the latest violence. Others have claimed the trouble is partly the result of America's failure to crack down earlier on Mr Netanyahu.

But a senior White House official insisted yesterday that Mr Clinton had "read the riot act" to foreign leaders in the past, though always in private. "Grandstanding publicly usually doesn't get much done," he said.

The official offered the example of the public pressure by the former president George Bush on Israel's last Likud prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir. Mr Bush withheld $10 billion (about £6.6 billion) in loan guarantees to persuade Mr Shamir to freeze Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. "I would question whether that was effective," the official said.

Instead, the Clinton administration's stated approach — in Bosnia, Northern Ireland and the Middle East — has been to act as facilitator. "The public strategy is to walk softly but always to carry a big stick and a big carrot."

With just five weeks to go before the November election, White House officials concede a diplomatic failure would not be helpful for Mr Clinton, least of all in a region where he has invested so much time and political capital. Campaign planners had hoped to showcase the Middle East as one of his few foreign policy achievements.

Cynics argued that Mr Clinton has seized on the summit initiative as a chance to appear presidential. But Democratic aides explained that he had taken a big risk by hosting an unpredictable meeting, and the event will cut into his planned preparations for Sunday's first televised debate with the Republican challenger, Bob Dole.

Officials also dismissed suggestions that Mr Clinton is constrained by his desire not to alienate the large Jewish vote in the United States. Polls show his popularity among Jews is not at risk.

News in brief

UN to approve Iraq oil sales 'in weeks'

THE United Nations hopes to approve Iraqi oil-for-food sales "in a matter of weeks" after the setback caused by Iraqi military deployment, a senior official said yesterday.

Yasushi Akashi, the undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said the secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, was "almost ready" to approve the £1.3 billion sale when the Iraqi military intervened in Kurdish fighting in northern Iraq a month ago.

The military action only made matters worse for people already suffering from shortages that have worsened under UN sanctions imposed because of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the resulting Gulf war, Mr Akashi said.

When pressed, he said: "The secretary-general is anxious to start this programme. The people in Iraq and in many countries have been waiting for a long time. We are most anxious to commence it. I cannot speculate, but I think it would be a matter of weeks." — *AP, Geneva.*

Gulf logs 'reveal toxic cloud'

UNITED States Gulf war commanders took shelter from anticipated chemical warfare in 1991 while telling troops to disregard reports of a toxic cloud, according to newly declassified military documents given to the Birmingham News in Alabama.

The advocacy group Gulfwatch, which acquired the logs under the Freedom of Information Act, said they bolster their claim of a military cover-up of so-called Gulf war syndrome, an unexplained ailment many veterans claim they contracted.

Several gaps exist in the logs but an entry following the bombing of Iraqi ammunition dumps on January 19, 1991, reportedly says Czechoslovakian chemical warfare specialists had detected non-lethal levels of mustard gas. The next day, the log officer noted that Czech and French troops detected two types of nerve gas.

The following day, after an Iraqi Scud missile attack, central command switched on chemical warfare filters and sealed its facilities with airlocks, the logs state. That afternoon, French troops reported again detecting chemical agents. After a further Czech detection, central command told US troops to ignore the reports. — *AP, Birmingham, Alabama.*

N Korea 'to pay' for incursion

SOUTH Korean troops killed a North Korean yesterday in a gun battle three miles from where a Northern submarine was found grounded off the east coast almost two weeks ago. It brought to 22 the number of North Koreans killed or found dead since members of the crew came ashore. One was captured, three were believed to remain at large.

The deputy prime minister, Kwon O-kie, yesterday told parliament: "The armed North Korean intrusion was a shocking incident . . . They will have to pay the price for it." The government would adopt punitive measures under its new policy of trying to change the North's "habit" of military provocation, he said. The national security adviser, Yoo Chong-ha, said earlier that Seoul would take "all but military means" to retaliate.

Local media, quoting unidentified government officials, reported over the weekend that the South may delay approval of a deal to build two modern nuclear reactors in the North under a US-brokered 1994 accord.

Meanwhile, Pyongyang yesterday lambasted its wartime ally Russia for providing sophisticated military hardware to the South under a loan repayment scheme. — *AP, Seoul.*

Swiss vote for Nazi study

SWITZERLAND'S lower house of parliament yesterday voted for a sweeping study of financial dealings with Nazi Germany and the fate of Jewish wealth deposited before, during and after the second world war.

The national council endorsed a decree put forward by the cabinet by 162-0 and sent the measure for final approval by the upper chamber.

The decree creates a commission of experts empowered to lift tight bank secrecy rules for the accounting of Swiss commerce with Nazi Germany. It will also review how much wealth was deposited with Swiss banks and other financial companies by Jews and other victims of Nazi persecution, and whether the Swiss have done enough to identify the lost assets of those killed in the Holocaust.

The move follows recent speculation, fuelled by newly declassified US archives, that Switzerland could still be hoarding Nazi gold. — *Reuter, Berne.*

Find suggests white natives

A SKELETON discovered recently on a bank of the Columbia River near the town of Richland, Washington, suggests white men lived in America thousands of years before Christopher Columbus set sail.

Carbon dating put the skeleton's age at around 9,300 years old, making it one of around 12 from that period which have been discovered in the United States. But several forensic anthropologists who examined the skeleton came to the remarkable conclusion that Richland Man appeared to be Caucasian.

If verified, the discovery would radically undercut the orthodoxy on early American history which holds that the earliest Americans were Mongoloids who crossed a land bridge over the Bering Sea from Asia. It would lend credence to theories that native Americans may have been the descendants of both Mongoloid and Caucasian migrants, or that Mongoloid settlers beat out Caucasian ones. — *Ian Katz, New York*

EU births hit post-war low

WOMEN in European Union states had fewer babies last year than in any year since 1945, leaving immigrants to account for most of the population growth, an EU study showed yesterday.

With fewer than 4 million babies born in 1995, the fertility rate hit a post-war low of 1.43 children per woman. That means that if present patterns continue, each woman living in the EU will produce an average of 1.43 children during her lifetime. That compares with an average of 1.5 during the period 1990-94.

The project leader, Harri Cruysen, said women were having fewer children and spending more time in education or work. — *Reuter, Brussels.*

Colombian food prices rocket

FOOD prices have rocketed in Bogotá since leftist guerrillas unleashed a massive offensive at the end of last month, according to a survey by Colombian daily El Tiempo, published yesterday.

Since the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the National Liberation Army attempted to place a stranglehold on cities by blocking roads and burning trucks, the cost of a basic food basket has risen by more than 10 per cent, the newspaper calculated. Ports on the Caribbean coast and northeastern provinces had also been hit. The military and police have begun to escort some trucks. — *Reuter, Bogotá.*

A FINANCIAL ADVISER SHOULD BE A LIFE PARTNER...

...independent, knowledgeable and supportive

IN FACT, SOMEONE YOU'D REALLY WANT ON YOUR SIDE.

With the best research and training our advisers have access to the best investment, pension and protection products on the market.

CALL 0800 570800

Quote code GU0110, and make an appointment with one of our Independent Financial Advisers.
(Lines are Open 9.00am-8.30pm Monday-Friday, 10.00am-6.00pm Weekend)

BRADFORD & BINGLEY
INDEPENDENT ADVICE
Simply the right choice

Bradford & Bingley Building Society is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for Investment Business.

A civil servant wearing a mask in imitation of the prime minister holds a piece of bread at a protest in Bilbao yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: TXEMA FERNANDEZ

Chirac puts onus on local councils to help poor

Strikes spur Paris into action on jobs

Paul Webster in Paris

THE French government tried to stem a growing tide of social unrest by declaring yesterday that it would instruct local councils and voluntary associations to create 300,000 jobs for those receiving income support and other benefits.

The announcement — intended to fulfil President Jacques Chirac's election promise to heal France's "social fracture" — coincided with a strike by teachers over redundancies and sporadic protests before a public sector strike later this month.

During a visit to northern France, Mr Chirac has been trying to restore confidence by praising initiatives to increase local responsibility for job creation for the worst-off by transforming some income support into salaries.

In May last year, Mr Chirac said it was no longer acceptable that a "wounded and vulnerable France" was paying for a previous reluctance to solve the problems of social exclusion. But despite his renewed call for national solidarity, no new contributions will be demanded of the rich to help create jobs.

Le Monde dismissed the measures, which will provide funds for wages by ending some types of benefit, as "taking from the poor to give to the poorest".

The plan acknowledges that it will be five years before local initiatives create work for the 300,000 poorest citizens. The 27,000 new jobs available next year are unlikely to have much impact on the March 1998 general elections, which opinion polls say will be won by the left.

According to state figures, 12 million French people live precariously, with the young worse off than 10 years ago.

However, the minister for urgent humanitarian action, Xavier Emmanuelli, said the plan's wider aim was to end inequality in healthcare, housing and literacy. A new watchdog organisation would monitor and analyse levels of poverty.

As it has become clear that the government has no miracle solution to fend off the threat of another autumn of paralysing strikes, Mr Chirac has been trying to silence critics among his own right-wing supporters. They feel that the Gaullist prime minister, Alain Juppé, has botched the economic recovery and should go.

The president, who has dismissed the early replacement of Mr Juppé, planned yesterday to appeal for an end to internal party strife before Gaullist and allied movements debate the prime minister's demand for a parliamentary vote of confidence tomorrow.

Another rise in the jobless total announced at the weekend has increased Mr Juppé's difficulty in defending an austerity budget intended to meet European Union single-currency conditions.

With 3.2 million already out of work, the national protests have centred on fears about unemployment. Among teachers, for example, 5,000 posts are to go.

Madrid pulls budget punches

Adela Gooch in Madrid

CIVIL servants throughout Spain demonstrated yesterday against government plans to freeze their salaries — a key measure in this year's budget designed to prepare for the first phase of European monetary union (EMU).

But the unions' threat of a general strike as the budget was presented to parliament was largely a gesture: last week, the government signed an agreement with them to reform state pensions and guarantee their spending power.

Although the finance minister, Rodrigo Rato, proudly described the budget as the "toughest in 20 years" it leaves welfare spending virtually untouched. The government is relying on infrastructure cuts and privatisation to reduce the deficit which, at 6.4 per cent of GDP, is the main stumbling block towards meeting the Maastricht criteria for monetary union.

Unemployment, officially the highest in Europe, has been creeping down, as has inflation. The prime minister, José María Aznar, stressed that Spain was determined to qualify for the first phase of EMU, but most economists rule that out unless the criteria are softened. They argue that Spain needs a further two years.

The government hopes to reduce earlier spending plans by 800 billion pesetas [£4 billion] and lower the deficit to 3 per cent next year.

But economists accused it of putting off tough decisions until next year. Plans to introduce a 100 peseta [50p] charge on prescriptions had to be dropped because of objections from Catalan nationalists, on whose support Mr Aznar's minority Popular Party relies. In fact, health spending is to rise by 6 per cent.

The budget, carefully negotiated with the Catalans, is bound to be passed. Last year's rejection by MPs of spending proposals put forward by the Socialist government signalled its imminent demise.

The budget includes new levies on insurance policies but does not increase taxes substantially.

The Socialists accused the government of "creative accounting" and said an agreement whereby each region will be directly responsible for collecting and spending 30 per cent of income tax could prove expensive. The measure was demanded by the Catalans in return for their support of the PP.

Bosnia's leaders hold first meeting

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

BOSNIA began to take on its post-war shape yesterday, as a triumvirate of freshly-elected nationalist leaders met in a motel on the outskirts of Sarajevo for the first session of the collective presidency.

It was a low-key and awkward affair. The three participants arrived under heavy security from different directions and at different times, after Alija Izetbegovic — the Muslim leader and chairman of the presidency — raised last-minute objections about the venue.

The other members of the presidency — the Bosnian Serb leader, Momcilo Krajisnik, and the prominent Croat nationalist, Kresimir Zubak — were kept waiting nearly an hour while foreign diplomats persuaded Mr Izetbegovic to drive half a mile from the centre of town to the motel above the River Miljacka.

The meeting was intended to be the first step towards creating power-sharing institutions to hold Bosnia together, after three and a half years of murderous conflict.

Significant differences remain between the three leaders' visions of Bosnia's future. There is not even agreement on the oath of office to be used when the presidency is formally inaugurated, an event tentatively scheduled for the weekend.

The session was held behind closed doors. International observers described the atmosphere as workmanlike as the adversaries finally came together for a first informal encounter hosted by the international community's representative, Carl Bildt.

Mr Bildt said later that the leaders had shaken hands.

The three leaders will have to map out Bosnia's future after elections two weeks ago which gave huge majorities to nationalist wartime leaders from the three communities.

In the next few weeks, they are supposed to appoint a council of ministers and implement a "quick-start" package of measures designed to embody the highly decentralised state which has emerged from 43 months of war. The measures have to be approved by a multi-ethnic, 42-seat house of representatives which is expected to convene in central Sarajevo within 10 days.

Authority was formally transferred to the tripartite presidency on Sunday when the election results were formally approved by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) — despite allegations by independent observers of fraud and ballot-stuffing.

The timing of this first encounter had been in doubt because of differences over the venue. Mr Krajisnik had refused to come to a meeting in central Sarajevo, within the Muslim-Croat federation, because of fears for his safety. Mr Izetbegovic would not meet on the former front line as the Serbs suggested.

The Saraj motel represented a compromise. It is a mile inside federation territory on the road which runs along the side of a gorge from Sarajevo to the Serb headquarters in Pale.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH?

We do. Kidney research saves lives. So do legacies.

NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND

3 Archers Court, Stukeley Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 6XG
Telephone 01480 454828
Registered Charity No. 252992

ADVERTISEMENT

MY FIRST BENEFIT CHEQUE

If you had an accident or developed a serious illness and had to stop working, would you be able to manage? Would you receive enough help from your employers, or the State? And what would happen to you if you didn't? After all, you still have to eat, even if you can't walk. With a SafeGuard Income Protection plan from Norwich Union Healthcare however, you can be ready to deal with these problems. Because if the worst ever happens, it protects you against financial hardship. So all you'd have to worry about is getting better.

HIT ME HARDER THAN THE CAR.

Every year, 311,539 people are injured in road accidents. If it happened to you, the chances are you'd be off work for a long time. Who'd pay your way? Your employer? Unfortunately, he's only obliged to pay you for a limited period. So he might soon stop paying your wages. You might receive support from the State, but even then the basic single person incapacity Benefit is only £54.55 a week. How long do you think you could survive? Add up your weekly bills (food, clothes, gas, electricity...) and the answer is, not very long at all.

IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR JOB BECAUSE OF ILLness OR injury, IT IS STILL DOWN TO YOU TO LOOK AFTER YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY.

So if it isn't your employer's or the State's responsibility to provide for you if you have to stop working, whose is it? To be blunt, it's yours. And without a SafeGuard Income Protection plan, you'd find coping very difficult indeed.

From only £10 a month, a SafeGuard plan allows you to insure up to 60% of your income against almost all types of injury or illness, protecting you against suffering a lower standard of living should you have to give up your job. Every month, until you're fit enough to work again, or if necessary, until you reach an agreed retirement age, SafeGuard provides you with a tax-free income to the agreed level of cover.

Of course, you may still believe that you don't need the protection of a SafeGuard plan. That accidents always happen to someone else. If you do, bear in mind that last year 1.7 million workers needed more than six months off work due to long-term injury or illness, and that Norwich Union Healthcare paid out over £18 million in income protection claims. That's rather a lot of someone elses. For more information, call free on 0800 400 123.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY WITH A SAFEGUARD INCOME PROTECTION PLAN, FILL IN THE COUPON.

Please return coupon to: Norwich Union Healthcare Ltd., Freepost, Chilworth House, Hampshire Corporate Park, Templars Way, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 3DG.

Surname
First Name(s) or Initials
Address
Postcode
Telephone day/STD
Evening/STD
Date of birth
Occupation

If you would prefer us not to use one of our Sales Advisers, please tick the box ☐. Data that you provide may be used by NU Group Companies, your insurance intermediary or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you regarding your future insurance needs.

SEM 3492

NORWICH UNION
No one protects more.

The **Guardian**
Tuesday October 1 1996
Edition Number 46,672
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

The limits of social justice

Without growth fairness will not be on the agenda

BY THIS time next year, if Labour wins the election, Gordon Brown could be preparing his first budget having already made — for such is the tightness of the timetable — the most important economic decision of recent times: whether Britain will join the chain of events leading to a common European currency. Yesterday's speech to Labour's annual conference at Blackpool was designed to prove that Labour was sufficiently reconstructed to be fit to govern in a globalised economy without sacrificing its core principles. The chancellor presumptive managed to soothe the party faithful — even mentioning the word "socialism" in a constructive way — without upsetting the FTSE share index. He was rewarded with a dignified ovation, albeit a standing orders one, which was about the best a would-be iron chancellor could expect to get when so many Labour icons have been jettisoned.

History may judge the Conservatives to have been much better in their own terms at micro-economic policy (like reforms to the labour market) than macro-economic policy. Even their staunchest supporters find it difficult to defend two unnecessarily severe recessions in one decade. Goodness knows how much economic wealth, which could have rebuilt Britain's social infrastructure, was lost by those disastrous policies. Mr Brown intends to do well at both macro and micro policy. He plans to pursue fiscal and monetary restraint (however unpopular) in order to generate sustainable growth to pay for social reforms that his inherited fiscal deficit precludes him from doing at present.

At the same time he hopes that his micro-economic reforms (improving education, training and offering incentives for the poor and long-term unemployed to get back to work) will pave the way for stronger expansion in future and a long-overdue reduction in unemployment to the low levels of a couple of decades ago. This means, sadly, that since Labour is not prepared to undo the maldistribution of income of the past 17 years in a significant way, priority groups so badly treated under the Conservatives — including pensioners and the poor — will have to wait. The only exceptions on offer are the introduction of a minimum wage (at an affordable rate) and a pledge to reduce the starting band of income tax to 15p in the pound or even 10p if the means can be found (like restoring capital gains and inheritance taxes if they are abolished in the November budget).

What pensioners feel about all that can only be guessed at. Mr Brown was adroit yesterday in — quite rightly — castigating the Government for its "betrayal of the pensioners of Britain", while eschewing any hint that could even indirectly be construed as a commitment to restore the practice of increasing pensions in line with average earnings rather than prices. He merely pledged "fairness".

He was at his best in invoking the language of Old Labour to justify his new orthodoxy. Thus it was Aneurin Bevan's language of priorities that made choices tough: tight fiscal discipline was necessary because "every pound that is inefficiently spent is a pound denied to our frontline services": inflation was bad because it affected pensioners and the poor who suffered most. In this way "prudence and responsibility is not therefore an abandonment of socialism; it is the very essence of it". Heady stuff, but it falls well short of being a socialist's defence of monetarism by Mr Brown's evident passion, and by the detailed reforms he has worked out to open up the growth potential of the economy in a fairer way. If the growth doesn't happen then all bets are off.

An exception to prove the rule

Mrs B is right to fight to use her dead husband's sperm

SHOULD a dead man father a child? Technologically, this has been possible since scientists developed procedures to freeze sperm. Legally, this can happen when an anonymous donor to an artificial insemination clinic dies. If the principle has been established, why is the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) blocking the attempts of a wife to conceive a baby by her dead husband? Prior to the Act that set up the Authority, the woman would have faced far less trouble. The facts are set out by our legal correspondent on the women's page today. The woman involved, who will take her case to the High Court tomorrow, is 30 years old. She is known as Mrs B. Her husband became her steady boyfriend at 16 and her husband when she was 25. In January, 1995, they decided to try to have a baby — and at one point, falsely, she thought she was pregnant — but two months later her husband developed meningitis and went into a coma. At the request of the wife, doctors removed samples of the husband's sperm before switching off the life support machine. Now she wants his baby but is being blocked by the HFEA.

The HFEA is not being obtuse. It is seeking to protect an important medical principle: consent. The principle was established to protect patients, not harm them. It remains a cornerstone of medical ethics. Without such a principle, there would be far less control over clinical practice. The application from Mrs B was blocked because there was no written consent from Mr B about the use of his sperm. HFEA rules also require all males who provide sperm samples to have counselling before they give their written consent. The rules were written to reassure the public and ensure medical people involved in fertility treatment subscribe to ethical guidelines. These were drawn up after the Warnock Committee, which preceded the Act, suggested that the use of a dead husband's sperm should be "actively discouraged" because it might give rise to "profound psychological problems for child and mother".

Warnock should not be dismissed out of hand but Mrs B's arguments to our legal correspondent have even more force: "What is totally bizarre is that I can have treatment with the sperm of a totally anonymous donor, but surely it would be better for a child to know its father loved its mother, it was wanted, it was planned." She adds: "The only person they can be said to be protecting is my husband, yet it was me who knew him for 13 years, and me who had discussions with him." The arguments she raises are important. Laws should rarely be immutable. They are there to be challenged and developed by the courts, particularly in cases like Mrs B's where technology changes so quickly. Mrs B should not have been required to remortgage her home to have financed her action. She is raising important principles of public policy: not the rescinding of the Act, but a refinement to provide more flexibility.

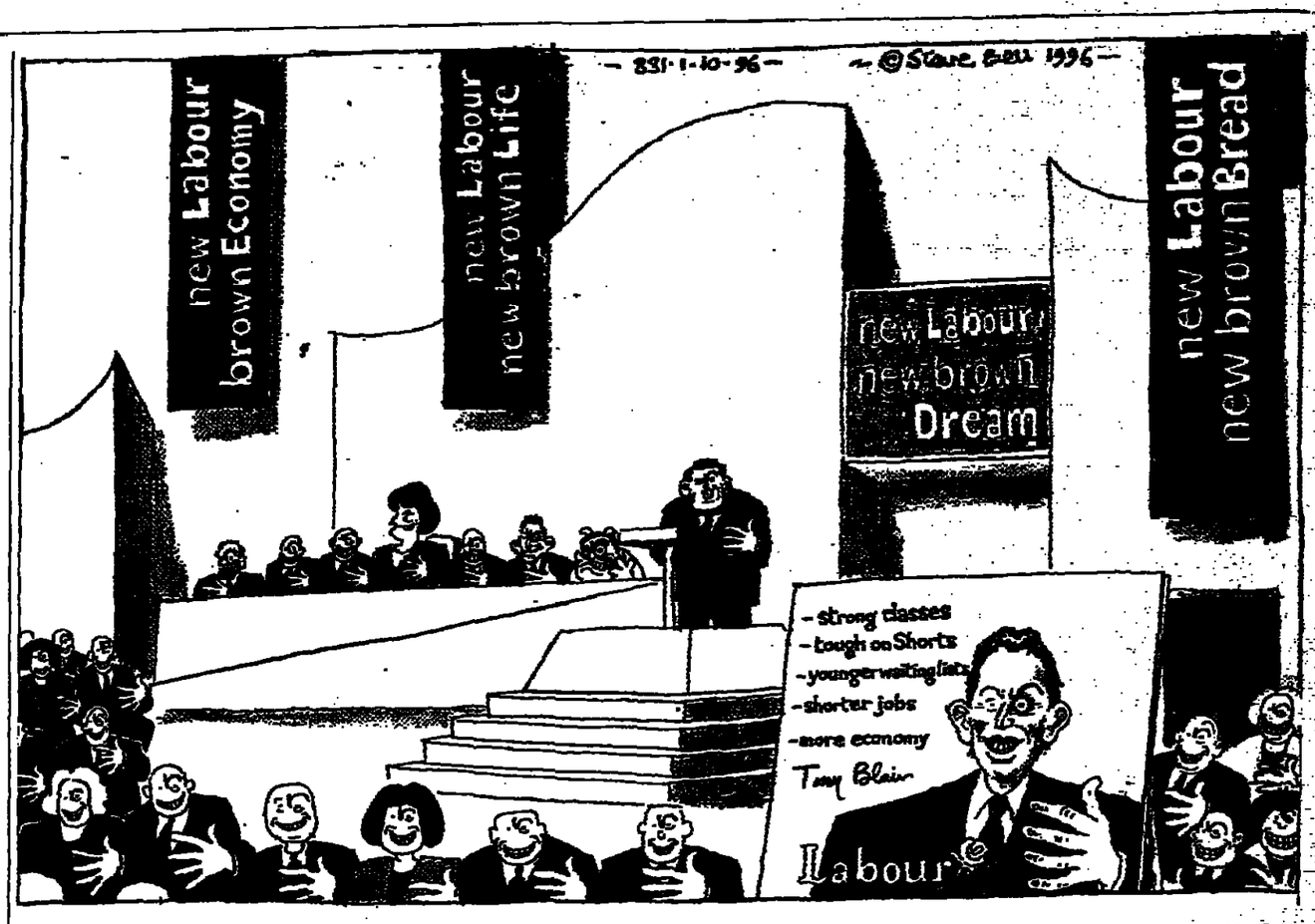
The billionaires' banquet

But do not forget: 12 million children are starving

GLOBALISATION was supposed to spread the benefits of late 20th century capitalism widely around the world, and to bring down national barriers as international finance swished and swirled into every productive corner of the globe. We would not have guessed it from the latest annual rating of wealthy Americans by Forbes magazine published yesterday. The number one superpower is still the number one super-rich power, and the 400 wealthiest Americans include 121 dollar billionaires — 27 more than last year.

Forbes had already told us in July that the world has a total of 447 billionaires, and that the US occupies a third of the total. This earlier survey gives an even higher total for the US of 149. Perhaps the super-rich have so much stashed away that it is difficult to count up accurately. But both surveys are consistent in registering William Henry Gates III — Mr Microsoft — as the fattest cat in the alley. Only market investor Warren Buffett comes anywhere near to Mr Gates's $18.5 billion, and both are up by 25 per cent from last year. The other notable statistic is that for the first time the average net worth of the Forbes 400 exceeds one billion dollars. The list also reflects the main growth industries today: communications and the financial market.

The cliché that the rich are getting richer is unavoidable. So is the contrast to be drawn, in yesterday's news, between the exuberant figures from Forbes, and a rather different set of statistics from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). These show that the food situation in developing countries has barely improved in the last six years and most child deaths are due to undernourishment. Around 12 million children die each year, and more than half a million women die in childbirth. These figures too speak for themselves.



Letters to the Editor

Humanity screened out

AS the mother of a lovely nine-year-old daughter who has Down's syndrome, I read Annabel Ferriman's article on pre-natal testing (Truth and trouble with scans, September 24) and Lucy Johnstone's ordeal with great sadness.

How can Professor Nicholas Wald possibly compare stroke prevention with pre-natal screening? Firstly these tests cause a great deal of often unwarranted distress to the expectant mum who begins to see her child as a potential burden rather than the gift that he or she is. Secondly, the stroke patient is not "terminated" when his condition is discovered, whereas 9 out of 10 unborn babies with Down's syndrome whose disability has been detected are aborted. Here the "prevention" of handicap in the unborn means the killing of the disabled patient — incredibly, with the compliance and even encouragement of the medical profession.

Every morning our daughter greets me with a kiss, a hug and the statement: "I love you, Mummy!" What more could any mother wish for?
Mary Brennan.
Durlock Avenue,
Ramsgate, Kent CT11.

AS one born with spina bifida in 1948, I am frequently irritated, if not insulted, by the suggestion that my life has been so awful that no one else should be allowed to undergo such suffering. Especially as no one has ever asked me about my experiences. We are told we are "too exceptional", or even that we can't possibly know whether or not we are truly happy, so we cannot comment.

If ultrasound and other forms of pre-natal screening could determine the sexual orientation of unborn babies, would you suggest that mothers wishing to be spared the "misfortune" of a gay child should be allowed to terminate? Would you allow mothers who, for cultural reasons, did not want daughters to terminate? I wonder how many more times I will be told that the rules applying to disability are "different".

I have a very full and enjoyable life despite spina bifida (and breast cancer). Of course I would welcome a cure for either — but not at the price of the elimination of people, even if we could be certain of identifying unborn babies with those disabilities.

As Lucy Johnstone's experience clearly demonstrates, termination kills a child. Women suffer tremendous guilt and remorse as a result of the pressure they are under when the tests appear to show an abnormality. Discrimination against the disabled is a slippery slope. Who will be next?
Diana Sanderson.
Finchale Road,
Newton Hall, Durham DH1.

PROFESSOR Wald compares screening with the work done in trying to prevent strokes. But doctors do not kill those who may be in danger of strokes. A better comparison would be the screening and abortion of girl foetuses, as is not uncommon in India (and in Bradford, if the case of one doctor, reported in a Sunday tabloid, is proved true: she will arrange an abortion if the child is a girl). Apparently this type of screening is illegal even though there seems to be "a genuine demand from the women themselves".

Professor Wald himself has said: "Screening for spina bifida is highly cost-effective . . . the cost of looking after such children is far higher than the cost of detecting cases." That sounds to me like discrimination against born children with spina bifida because no one ever calculates how much it costs to raise children without disabilities with a view to detecting and eliminating them before birth. It is because we don't want people with disabilities, as we think they cost too much, that we get rid of them before birth.
Sioned Tomos.
Westra, Dinas Powys,
Vale of Glamorgan CF64.

PROFESSOR Wald's comparison is particularly poignant and unfortunate in our case. For 18 years, our son Peter who had Down's syndrome was at the centre of our family, enriching our lives. Then he died last year — as a consequence of severe strokes. How we would have welcomed screening to prevent these. That would have been a totally different issue.
Hazel Morgan.
Culford School,
Bury St Edmunds.

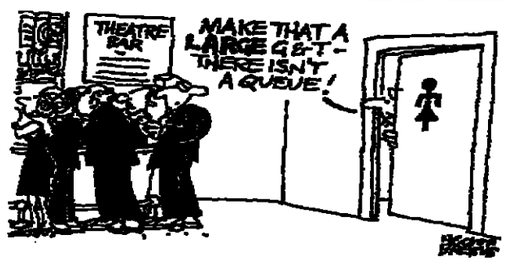
Seeds of hope

A WOMAN fights for the right to have a child by her dead husband (Front page, September 30). Hold on, wasn't this story on Chicago Hope? That woman was persuaded against proceeding on the grounds that it was selfish and took no account of the child's needs. The whole matter was resolved neatly within 45 minutes (as indeed were half-a-dozen other problems). It is a shame that life always takes so much longer than art (I except Wagner, Warhol, and De Mille).
Nicholas Haysom.
45 Springvale Road,
Kings Worthy,
Winchester, Hants SO23 7ND.

THE Commission for Racial Equality's decision to record all complaints of religious discrimination (Religious bias to be monitored, September 27) will be welcomed not only by the Muslim community. It has long been the view of many in the Christian community that there should be legislation to make religious discrimination an offence. The Bishop of Oxford has himself pressed for this, and, given the degree of religious discrimination in British society, it is highly likely that Christians will be among those recording complaints.
(Rev) Richard Thomas.
Communications Officer,
Diocese of Oxford.
Diocesan Church House,
North Hinksey,
Oxford OX2 0NB.

ANOTHER example of modernist management boilocks-speak (Letters, September 27): I work for an inner-city local authority, and a while ago a consultant was appointed to undertake a review of my department. He popped his head around my door and introduced himself. I asked him what actually he was going to do, and he replied that he was "an experienced change agent".
Mike Cantor.
18 Windermere Avenue,
London NW6 6LN.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.



Deservedly flushed with pride

AT last, ladies' toilet facilities that should be the standard for any public building. Well done the designers of the new Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, for providing enough toilets to avoid the otherwise almost universal experience of having to spend the whole interval queueing.

The second cheer is for the fact that they provide a shelf above the washbasins where a handbag or vanity case can be put down and remain dry. The third is for the design and position of the soap dispensers, which dispense soap into the basin and not on to the surround. And two further cheers for the design of the taps (easy for the arthritic to use) and the door handles: stylish but practical. I hope future designers of large public buildings will adopt such features.
Jean Wearne.
Applegates, 8 Haddon Close,
Alderley Edge SK9 7RD.

America is in a class of its own

AMERICAN university education can be expensive, but it need not be (The added pain of pay as you learn the American way, September 21). Private universities, which receive very limited taxpayer subsidies, are sometimes very expensive and their students can graduate with considerable debt — and well-founded expectations of good salaries.

However, the state university system in Georgia, for instance, charges $100 per quarter for books to in-state students who maintain a B-or-better-grade average, with absolutely no charge for tuition. Other states differ in how much in-state residents, out-of-state or foreign students may pay.

Your reporter slurs state universities when he claims that they provide "second rate" education. A degree from University of California campuses at, say, Berkeley or Los Angeles, or any of the SUNY (State University of New York) campuses, can only be considered among the most prestigious in the world.
Catherine White.
Acting Director, Educational Advisory Service,
Fulbright Commission.
62 Doughty Street,
London WC1N 2LS.

AS a student who has experienced both the English and American university systems, I can attest to the superiority of the American degree. For starters, the Americans do not expect their 16-year-olds to commit to a specific subject on leaving school. As a result, Americans gain a much broader view of the world while their English counterparts are stuck in a deadlock of a system that forces them to be so focused that other possibilities are lost. The US also sends almost half of its population on to further education because it believes everyone should have the opportunity.
Andrea Li.
21 St Ann's Terrace,
London NW8 6PH.

Frankly speaking, it's a Field day for pension reform

IF Aneurin Bevan were alive today I doubt whether he would agree that Frank Field (Letters, September 27) is speaking the language of democratic-socialist priorities.

Frank Field repeats the accusations that the poorest pensioners will not benefit from Barbara Castle's proposals and that occupational-pension contributors stand to lose up to £550 a year.

Both statements are untrue. Basic state pensioners, especially the 700,000 or more not currently receiving the income support to which they are entitled, will gain. Additional second-tier pensions will also be strengthened. Occupational-pension rebates are not affected.

And Frank's suggestion that Serps can be replaced by a compulsorily funded private scheme defies logic as well as international evidence. Interestingly he does not say much about the so-called Pension Entitlement put forward by Harriet Harman to help the poorest pensioners.

Like the earlier Labour proposals for a "Minimum Pension Guarantee" and an "Assured Pension", a "Pension Entitlement" is a proposal for a means test. We do not understand how the basic problem of pensioner poverty is likely to be solved by substituting one form of failed means test by another.

What is wrong with steadily raising the basic pension by (i) using existing contributions much more effectively; (ii) adding a small increase to the rates of contribution payable by prosperous people who have benefited hugely from the so-called Tory "reforms"; and (iii) clawing back some of the "cost" of larger basic pensions from the rich via increased taxes — which many seem willing to pay?
Peter Townsend.
Vice President,
Fabian Society.
11 Dartmouth Street,
London SW1H 9BN.

IT is difficult to see why the Labour leadership has got itself into such a bind over the up-rating of the basic state pension. We face enormous inflationary pressures in the economy which the Chancellor won't do anything about because we are in the run-up to the election. So price increases are almost certainly going to be higher in the near future than the earnings increases that the rebels want to get written back into the up-rating formula. Why not concede it *now*?

All that Labour would *then* have to do is align itself with Eddie George in demanding that the Chancellor take immediate action to clamp down on the pressures, which he can only do by raising interest rates — the last thing his party colleagues want.

If he doesn't, then the next Labour government will have the perfect alibi for blaming the Tories for any increase in inflation during the first few years in office that causes them to raise interest rates.

Gordon Brown could then announce that, with increasing properity, he will be making restitution for everything that has been stolen from the pensioners by the Conservatives in the breaking of the earnings link.
Ernest Wood.
Fourwinds, Okehampton,
Devon EX20 4LX.

ARE we to understand from Mr Field that, had Mrs Thatcher not readjusted the criteria for pensions downwards, the next Labour government would have had to do just that because it could not afford to honour its agreement with us pensioners?

If that is not the case, then why is Mr Field advancing his dubious theories now?

We were given an undertaking by the state which the Tories chose to break. Surely the new Labour government will not adopt similar political immorality?

Barbara Castle may not be a candidate at the next election but that doesn't mean she does not represent a very large section of the community who can put in — or as easily keep out — a Labour government.
Bill Purdie.
Bryn Derwen,
West Street,
Marlow SL7 2BP.

IMPROVEMENTS to state pensions should be funded by the restoration of the Exchequer contribution to the National Insurance fund which the Tories terminated in 1989. The cost of this could be met by phasing out the tax rebates and exemptions that the private pension funds get on their investment income and capital gains. They have done very nicely out of these over the past 17 years, as dividends have quadrupled and share values risen roughly sevenfold.

Further untaxed benefits have come from the purchase of under-priced shares in privatisations, and the recent spate of share buy-backs and special dividends.
R J Westmarland.
109 Drayton Bridge Road,
London W7 1ER.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: As the season changes slowly but surely into autumn so too do the moths that are attracted to the garden light trap — the Common Sallow with its orange-yellow wings dotted with reddish-grey markings bears a remarkable resemblance to an autumnal leaf. Very few of our resident moths are green in colour and one of the most attractive members of this restricted group is a noctuid with the splendid title, Merveille du Jour, which flies at night in September and October. One or two are usually drawn to the mercury vapour lamp but seldom do they enter the collecting box, preferring to settle close by on the garden fence or garage wall. Whilst the dominant ground colour of this beautiful insect is a rich bright green, its wings are patterned with cryptic white-edged black markings and thus another example of nature's camouflage in the moth world. The "merveille" is to be lucky enough to find it at rest during the day on the lichen-covered bark of an oak tree. Another attractive and not uncommon moth now appearing in the trap is the Green-brindled Crescent. Despite its name it can't really be included amongst the "green" moths as that colour is very variable on this species and quite often does not appear at all. However it does share a characteristic with about another 100 of our moths in producing a melanistic form which is the variety that has turned up in the trap more often this autumn than the true type. The white fleck near the hinge edge of the upper wing — the crescent — is always clearly visible in both forms. These melanistic examples have been given a Latin name — capucina, and just like the coffee this describes perfectly the rich, brown overall colouring of their wings. Not welcome in the trap, at present, are the wasps that burst out when the lid is lifted.

J M THOMPSON

new Labour new brown Bread

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE TV journalist Martyn Gregory has been writing with infectious fury about how John Birt spiked two reports on British Airways: one was a follow-up to an earlier Newsnight piece on John Gorman, an ex-policeman allegedly terrorised after complaining about finding glass in a BA meal; and the other concerned Virgin's court case against BA. The cancellation of these films is very curious. Meanwhile, I would like to make a correction. In the Observer, Mr Gregory mentioned that Mr Birt and BA chief executive Robert Ayling both own houses in Hay-on-Wye. This is not strictly true. Both own houses in Crickadern, a tiny village some seven miles from Hay. Mr Birt's very smart place stands opposite the church, while Mr Ayling has a small, isolated cottage just outside the village. Mr Ayling's place, however, is derelict and uninhabitable. Where Mr Ayling stays on weekends when renovating the derelict property is uncertain. Let us hope he can find a way to avoid spending a fortune on hotels.

I AM enchanted by the regal portrait of Mr Tony Blair and family. Alastair Campbell, the Blair press man, rang on Friday to say that the new photo was his way of saying thanks for respecting the little ones' privacy this past year. Isn't that sweet? The invoice (for £250) arrived in yesterday's post. Ahhhh.

IN the new edition of Radio Times, out today, Norma Major talks to the excellent Andrew Duncan. Mrs Major, now decommissioned after a brief spell as a secret weapon, continues her run of outspoken form. Lady Thatcher gets a minor kicking — "she didn't like superfluous women, or any extraneous bods. We didn't really serve much purpose, wives" — but Mrs Major's real loathing is reserved for the Tory establishment. "I heard that someone said the only way we'd have got to Number Ten previously," she says, "was as butler and parlourmaid. Best to ignore that sort of thing." Second best, in fact. Best to get hold of the person and kick their teeth in with spiked boots.

MEANWHILE, good news for the family: the Terry Major-Ball column has arrived. The Daily Mail won a recent scrap for Terry's services (despite offering £150 a time less than the Express), and "the brother of all columns" duly made its debut on Friday. In three items, Terry covered the *entire range from daughter* Fiona's wedding, through a visit to Stringfellow's, all the way to his new microwave oven. (Presumably the problems with his ironing board will be held over until space permits.) It was a great triumph . . . and to Terry we remove our hats.

A CONTENDER emerges in the quest for the country's drollest public-relations exponent. *It is Rentokil*, which recently took over multinational BET (and, appetisingly enough, the firm's contracts to supply school dinners). Rentokil, which itself donated £21,000 to charity in 1995 (a bounteous 0.02 per cent of UK pre-tax profits), has not only ordered BET to halve its annual charitable donations, but *has instructed* directors of all 73 BET companies around the world on no account *to make personal* gifts. Tempting as it is to assume that this is a joke, Rentokil's corporate-affairs boss Charles Grimaldi insists he isn't clowning around.

MEANWHILE, from the world of PR journalism, we salute Rebecca Dowman. Preparing the ground for the Labour Conference. Rebecca, who writes the diary for PR Week, called a contact yesterday to ask which parties he and colleagues from his firm were going to at the Tory conference in Brighton. When it was pointed out that they were going to Bournemouth, a lengthy silence ensued. "Oh," said Rebecca, eventually, in a very small voice. "But I've booked a b&b in Brighton, I've booked restaurants in Brighton . . ."

Labour uplifted by faith in the future

Commentary

Hugo Young

THE Labour Party is the party of government. Not may be or will be. Is. That is its state of mind. Merely the formalities remain to be accomplished. There's an election to be won, and the Tories to be sent to the knackers. But the party doesn't doubt this will happen. Its confidence has become seigneurial. In the Labour mind, the Tories are history. The duty if not the fact of government has already changed hands. That's the importunate language here in Blackpool.

The switch from a year ago is immense. Then the cockiness had hardly begun. Clause 4 had gone, and the leader was established as a potent hero, but self-disbelief still ruled. Anxiety was universal that the boat should not be rocked. Labour was a long way from being at all certain that the Tories didn't have tricks up their sleeves. To most people, a Labour victory was becoming plausible but remained highly improbable. The ghoulish pessimism bred of 16 years, casting Labour as the party that fate has destined to lose forever, easily got the better of empty boosterishness.

Since then, however, the Tories have done their best for the Labour Party. Their tricks have been self-destructive. We're a year nearer the election, and Conservatism is no nearer winning it. Mr Blair has remained utterly ascendant. One of his favourite polling graphs continues to give satisfaction. The link between feel-good feelings and Conservative fortunes, which declined in parallel between 1992 and 1994, began to separate as the New Labour phenomenon took root. *People started to feel better* despite the collapse of confidence in the Government. This was proof that New Labour was working. It still is. The ingrained inferiority complex has been comprehensively supplanted by a rhetoric that lays exclusive claim to the millennium.

This is not an unqualified blessing. It brings other developments in its train. The party, after all, doesn't yet actually *have* the power. It is getting ahead of itself. Responsibility without power is the curse that will kill this government, but the illusion of power without the fact of responsibility has its perils too.

One result of the dispelling of anxiety about victory is the burgeoning of anxiety about what victory will be for. More people, serious and committed Blair supporters, begin to feel released from the neurotic imperatives of silence. Moreover, in this half-world between impotence that is about to end and power that has not yet arrived, they sense their last opportunity to get the argument going before Mr Blair and his colleagues disappear into the Whitehall Valhalla.

Blair, however, is the man who, of all his party, is least seized of the new certainty. All those around him talk like people who think the New Labour era is already in its pre-history, its pre-destined run-up. The leader is *not prepared to think that. Of* all the people here, he chooses to be the canniest. He regards this conference as the last best chance the Tories have to represent his party as divided/ dangerous-/destructive. Get past Blackpool safely, he thinks, and they'll have nothing left to say.

The mood of confidence, however, doesn't entirely permit this. Blair is in this sense the victim of his own success. The party is easing back into a little bit of argument. People dare to inquire what great cause they are fighting for. Roy Hattersley and Peter Hain, at a lunchtime meeting of the new Labour Reform Group, made statements of impeccable socialist moderation, which insisted that the S-word wasn't anathema. It had, as Hain defined it, a futuristic relevance. Both men surely spoke from the deep heart of the radical centre-left when they said that politics was about more than fiscal probity.

This is actually Blair's own ground. Such was the decent sincerity of Hain and Hattersley that I heard nothing Mr Blair would disagree with. Their generalisations about what Labour is for would be expressed by him in only slightly different language. There's no doubt he believes in greater social justice, in more economic fairness, in attacking poverty. He himself has said that if there's been no alleviation of poverty by the end of a Labour government, it will

> Blair is horrified that anyone might doubt he won't lead a radical government

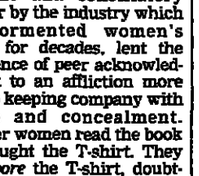
have been a pointless exercise. But he doesn't always say things as abrasively as that. He appeals all the time for seriousness, professionalism, discipline. Because he's wracked more than anyone in his party by awareness of what might go wrong in the next six months, he regards discipline as a synonym for the silence, desirably, of almost everyone except himself.

That's what makes the Hattersleys worried. They fear that this preternatural caution must cast doubt on whether the Labour government, they think certain, will really make a difference. At the moment, these alarms are mere skirmishes. But the more certain victory gets, the more severe they could become.

In fact, yesterday's proceedings should have been reassuring. Neither Chris Smith nor Gordon Brown made any new promises. But the agenda in which they were instructing this new party of government adds up to quite a lot. The conference managers did well to begin with Health. It's the one area where the leadership can't be suspected of taking much from the Tories. The speech of the minister-in-waiting gave the lie to the *canard* that Labour will make no difference. The end of the internal competitive market, the re-structuring of the health trusts and the ending of local pay determination will all help restore a true National Health Service. A specific pledge is made on waiting-lists for cancer surgery. Banning tobacco advertising is a radical attack on the poison business. Likewise Gordon Brown. The national minimum wage is no joke. The Child Benefit switch for over-16s is a painful, sensible, practical expedient. I don't know what the "national child care strategy" will add *up to, but there's no excuse* for pretending the Labour leadership isn't seriously committed on both skilling and youth employment.

This will be the pattern of the week, the leadership soberly preparing for government, the party indecently certain it will get there. Between them sits the question that more people have finally got the courage to be asking: will this be a truly radical project, and how is the fire in Labour bellies to be stoked and kept alive? Mr Blair is certain he has the answer to that. He's horrified that anyone might doubt he won't lead a radical government. Today he speaks. It's his chance to make bold use of the chilling confidence that now gushes all around him.

Breast beating in the age of adventure



Rachel Cusk

TODAY marks the beginning of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, in which it is hoped that younger women in particular will be instilled with that 20th-century virtue — awareness — about a disease whose death rates are now thought to be higher in Britain than anywhere else.

Breast cancer is not new; nor is its treatment. Fanny Burney's account of her unanaesthetised mastectomy in 1811 will be etched upon the mind of anyone who has read it. Over the past century, however, it has become a scourge of the West, and in the 35-54 age range is the single biggest cause of death for women in Britain. Although the risk of developing breast cancer roughly doubles with every decade of a woman's life, it is among the over-fifties that mammography and early treatment really begin to level these rates off, reducing the number of deaths by a third.

Fashion Targets Breast Cancer, the campaign launched earlier this year in a most welcome and conciliatory manner by the industry which has tormented women's bodies for decades, lent the confidence of peer acknowledgement to an affliction more used to keeping company with shame and concealment. Younger women read the book and bought the T-shirt. They even *wore* the T-shirt, doubtlessly over Wonderbra-enhanced cleavages. Of what use is all this "awareness" to those for whom breast cancer still represents a relatively distant threat? The answer is that while the incidence of the disease among relatives presents a danger to some young women, its causes, about which new information is emerging all the time, will be of interest to all of them.

That breast cancer should have progressed from relative obscurity to afflict more than 32,000 women in Britain each year, 14,500 of whom die from it, requires some explanation. This explanation invariably features the phrase "Western lifestyle". When people talk about "Western lifestyle", especially as a contagion invading clean-living, holistic cultures like China's, they often mean "unnatural", with vague mental reference to images of people sitting in front of TVs swilling Diet Coke and eating hamburgers. In fact, "Western lifestyle" in this case encompasses social changes which, even if they too are "unnatural", would be hard, if not impossible, for women to give up.

The factors believed to have caused the unprecedented surge in breast-cancer rates are those which underpin to an alarming degree the freedoms of modern women. Having several children, having them early, and breastfeeding them, is the course of action which offers the most substantial protection; failing to do these things incurs the most risk outside hereditary factors. A woman who has her first child after 35 is three times more likely to develop breast cancer than one who did so in her teens.

"Awareness", in the light of this information, takes on rather a different tone. Awareness is not, it would seem, just a matter of being on the lookout for lumps. It is to some degree a matter of being told that you have a choice. A *younger woman in possession* of this awareness may alter her priorities and hence the course of her life.

It is difficult to extricate common sense from the guilt, anxiety and fear which haunt the prospect of childbearing, and its delay, for many women. Thirty-five may well be the age at which the body turns against itself, complains at its unnatural singularity; but it is also the age around which women are likely to have reached, after some struggle, a plateau in their career ascent on which it might be acceptable and comfortable to have children.

We are accustomed to accept that any way of life found to be detrimental to our health should immediately be addressed. The self-destructive impulse holds no lure for our culture, let alone any logic. Few people, for example, would regard smoking as worthwhile for those who claim that they could not accomplish tasks — no matter how important — without it.

And yet the story of women, after countless dull and uneventful chapters, has just started to get interesting. For the first time women are out dancing on the peninsula, with their biological destiny emitting faint, cautious cries on the mainland behind. One could call for better childcare, more maternity leave, the need to address discriminatory employment practices so that people could have children at a more "natural" age; but perhaps the conversation women have with their bodies ought to be private.

In our health-obsessed and secular age, doing something you're not supposed to in the temple of the body has a criminal ring to it. Most women will probably feel a pang of compunction and fear in the face of these statistics, but some will presumably also feel that the risk is worth it; that this is an age of adventure for women, and that it is in the nature of any adventure to carry a degree of personal danger. "Awareness" should involve helping ourselves to live with this risk, not turning back the clock because of it.

Rachel Cusk is author of Saving Agnes and The Temporary (Picador)

Unpicking the web

Three years ago Mohamed Al-Fayed revealed to **Peter Preston** that Conservative MPs were asking questions for cash. So began the painstaking journalistic investigation that led to yesterday's extraordinary climbdown

IT BEGAN a long time ago and almost by accident. The Guardian had published a story about Saudi funding of the Conservative Party. Deep, instantly swirling waters. Hugo Young, the chairman of the Scott Trust, phoned me. A senior QC friend had called, saying Mohamed Al-Fayed thought he might be able to assist. Would I like to go along and see?

June 14 1993. Asil Nadir had skipped to Northern Cyprus and was making waves. Michael Mates, the Northern Irish Minister, was about to have trouble with a wristwatch. And I was in an office on the fifth floor of Harrods listening to its owner (and star of DTI reports) luridly work over the politicians and mores of the eighties. Mohamed Al-Fayed in full flow makes the young Muhammad Ali seem monosyllabic. Then, at random, 30 minutes on, he mentioned Tim Smith.

The Conservative MP for *Beaconsfield*, he said, had been to see him just before the 1992 general election, trying to drum up campaign cash. "But I told him, go and ask your Saudi friends." Interesting, because Smith had become Deputy Treasurer at Central Office immediately after the election. But how had Al-Fayed met him in the first place? My question.

So he told me about Mr Smith and Neil Hamilton, and how Ian Greer — the lobbyist Lord King of BA recommended — had fielded them through the late eighties, asking questions for cash, working as a surreptitious team.

It wasn't what I'd gone along to talk about, or where the conversation had started. But it was specific, first hand, with money attached. He had taken a ferocious DTI drubbing. Yet here he was, confessing to paying Members of Parliament on the quiet — and risking another drubbing as he did so. We met a couple more times. He showed me the Ritz Hotel bill that Neil and Christine Hamilton had run up and forgotten to mention to the Registrar of Members' Interests. I knew about the mushroom growth of parliamentary lobbying. (Hencke had been on to it for years.) I knew that individual MPs had sometimes got into funding scrapes. But this was different: this seemed to be organised and orchestrated beyond previous imagining. It stank. It was, very simply, our job to get it into the open.

That was never going to be easy and many months of David Hencke and John Mullin toil only slowly began to unpick the web. Would Al-Fayed ever go public, putting his own testimony on the line? Fifteen months later, swelled with indignation, he did. When the libel crunch finally came, would he stand up in the witness box? You bet. He was raring to go.

> I knew that individual MPs had got into funding scrapes. But this seemed to be organised. It stank

The years of digging and waiting were not easy. Hollywood habitually gives newspaper investigations an instant, glossy sheen; but they *leave out the stone walls and* the lawyers and the bills and the special bite of the British way with libel. In this case, they also left out ordeal by Westminster committee, some visceral politicking and the bizarre complexities of parliamentary privilege: which began, to my utter surprise, with the news that Mr Hamilton could not sue, and *ended with a changed* law which meant he could waive his privileges whilst others in the case could stay under ancestral wraps.

The obvious thing — obviously recited by the Hamilton camp — was that the Guardian had started a sleaze war, with the Tories in its narrowly political sights. That was not true in the beginning. It is not true now. The first flicker of the story just happened, to no set *agenda*. Gradually it began to turn into a bigger picture, one which ranged the reputation of Westminster against a successful, growing company — the leader in the lobbying field — secretly determined on marketing its wares in ways that would have made Erskine May's hair curl. Gradually you began to see how Ian Greer spread his bread upon the waters, creating an ever larger pool of admirers and future friends. Gradually you began to realise how vulnerable the old gentlemen's club by the Thames is when it faces people, inside and out, who don't play the game.

The club, like all clubs, tends to hunch protectively when one of its members is under attack. The head prefects of the Whitehall establishment seemed as damply trusting as a Scottish cardinal with a plausible bishop. This wasn't a matter of party politics. It could have happened to any party in government. Instead, we were talking systemic faults. The lobbying system had turned into an industry. But Parliament was still pottering amateurishly, trustingly along: knowing that things had changed, but never quite wanting to confront that fact.

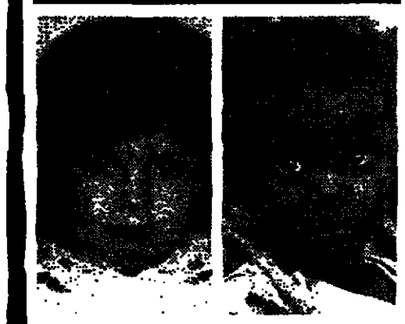
The resignations of Mr Smith and Mr Hamilton began the change. They made the Nolan inquiry inevitable. Lord Nolan delivered. MPs now have an outside force — Sir Gordon Downey — to help them put their House in order. They have tougher, clearer rules about declarations of interests and the quagmire of all-purpose lobbying. But is that the end of all concern? Could what happened in the late eighties not conceivably happen in the late nineties? Only a fool would reckon so.

I had three gruelling hours with the Privileges Committee last summer. They are politicians: they can hardly forget that when they start their interrogation. If you bring the ruling majority in the House (and thus on such committees) unwelcome tidings, you must expect to have the pea in your whistle blown back down your throat. If you are a spectre at the feast — like Mohamed Al-Fayed — you will be parked in the chamber of horrors, left in limbo as the committee (chairman: Tony Newton) dissolves to the Nolan prescription and then assembles supposedly afresh (chairman: Tony Newton). Delay is always a friend in a crisis. Committees can deem that all Members must attend all meetings. (One absent, one more cancellation, one more fortnight lost.) Elections can — and surely will — draw *another line on the time* clock.

Parliament can do better than that. Whoever runs it, however tiny the majority, however anxious the calculation, the over-arching enemy is cynicism: the cynicism of those inside, the cynicism outside of the ordinary voter who seeks a little faith in his legislature. By those lights, the journalist bearing allegations is not an enemy. Nor, whatever John Major believes, is Mohamed Al-Fayed. The whistleblowers are only foes if you believe that every MP and every Minister is somehow tainted, all inevitably huddled together against the outside storm. I have never believed that for a second. It is a grotesque libel on hundreds of decent men and women. The real enemies are sloth, naivety, indifference and unthinking tribalism: a refusal to treat seriously a perversion of democracy.

Nolan has made a start, but only a start. We begin to know now how deep the cancer ran. A start: not a finish.

They've both got diarrhoea



but only one of them will die from it

In this country, if a child suffers from diarrhoea it can be upsetting, but it's far from life-threatening.

Yet, in the developing world, diarrhoea kills. In fact, it claims the lives of around three million children every year.

By sponsoring a child through ACTIONAID you can help us provide access to safe water and basic health care – helping to prevent many of these unnecessary deaths.

In return, you'll receive a photo and messages from the child you sponsor. And you'll know exactly how your money is working through regular project reports from our field workers.

Help give a child in a developing country an equal chance. Sponsor a child today.

☐ Please send me details about sponsoring a child, or call: 01460 61073.
I am interested in sponsoring in
☐ Africa ☐ Asia ☐ Where there's greatest need.
☐ I can't sponsor a child now, but enclose a gift of:
☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £____
Make cheques/POs payable to ACTIONAID, and send to: ACTIONAID FREEPOST BS4388 Chard, Somerset TA20 1BR
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Address
Postcode
Tel

ACTIONAID

Rt Rev George Henderson

Scot for God and Labour

NO CHURCHMAN was ever less in awe of institutions or more in sympathy with the travails of ordinary people, irrespective of denomination, than George Henderson, former Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, who has died aged 74.

Much of his life's work, both as a priest and as a local Labour politician, was concentrated on the town of Fort William, in the West Highlands, where he rose through the offices of his church to become the Episcopalian Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, a post which he held for 15 years until retirement in 1992.

Standing on a Labour ticket, he was provost of the former burgh from 1962 to 1975. It was a period during which the Wiggins Teape pulp and paper mill and other industries were attracted to the area, transforming the economy and creating jobs both for local people and an incoming workforce. George Henderson was a key figure in these developments.

There were few material advantages in his childhood and this was the key to his later politics and great humanity. Born in Oban, he went to the local primary school which happened to be associated with the Episcopalian Church. It was the start of a lifelong association with that denomination which is small in the Highlands and in communion with the Church of England.

After attending Oban High School, he won a bursary to Edinburgh Theological College. His first curacy was in a poor parish of Glasgow but he then won an Exhibition to Durham University to study divinity, graduating with distinction. He was ordained in 1945 and returned to the diocese of Argyll and the Isles in 1948, first as a curate at Onich in Inverness-shire. George's long love affair with Fort William began in 1950 when he was appointed rector.

Within two years the young priest startled his flock, not only by entering local politics, but by doing so under the banner of Labour. George was a passionate and witty speaker. He took the pre-election hustings meeting by storm and topped the poll in the elections to Fort William Town Council, of which he remained a member for 23 years.

Even down to the present day there are Labour Party members who stand in the Highlands and similar areas as "independents", in the hope of improving their prospects. But George never stood as anything other than a Labour candidate. He believed, in all things, in nailing his colours firmly to the mast.

In his political role, he was a brilliant negotiator who struck many excellent commercial deals for Fort William. His personal finances were less well ordered. He had no interest in worldly wealth and would give the last pennies in his pocket to anyone more needy than himself. As a friend observed, it was just as well he did not carry more money as he would just have given it away.

Episcopalian churches in the Highlands are often found close to the hereditary seats of Anglicised, land-owning gentry. But George was no respecter of status and indeed the grander his audience the greater satisfaction he took from preaching the parable of the camel and the eye of a needle.

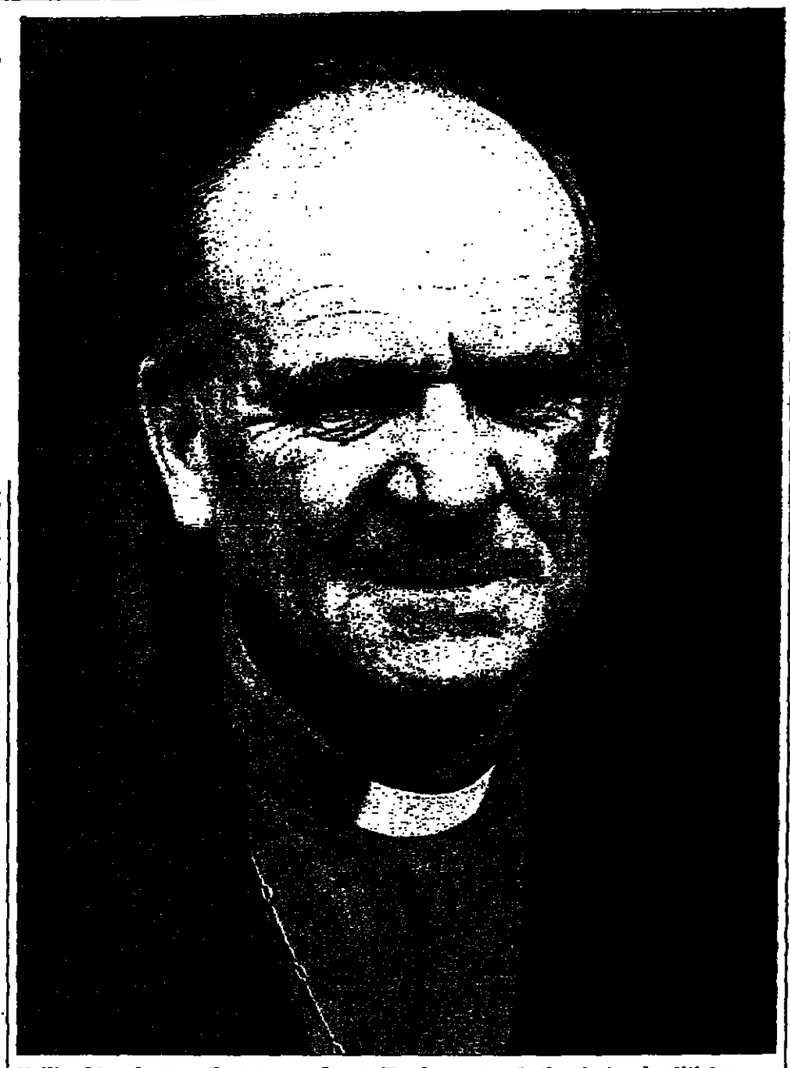
He was an extremely well-read man and published two anthologies of poetry. His wife Isobel, whom he married in 1950 and who survives him, was a music teacher and together they introduced many young people to influences which were greatly to improve and develop their later prospects.

George was constantly sought after for advice, both within the church and also at local level. In 1990, he became the leading figure in his church when he was made Primus, or senior bishop. If he had chosen to operate on a larger canvas, George Henderson would undoubtedly have done so to superb effect.

But the two causes to which he committed his life — the Scottish Episcopal Church and the town of Fort William — both benefited enormously from the wisdom and humanity of a man who never, for a single day in his life, forgot where he himself had come from.

Brian Wilson

George Henderson, priest and politician, born December 5, 1921; died September 26, 1996



Nailing his colours to the mast . . . George Henderson was both priest and politician

Pavel Sudoplatov

Doing the dirty work of the revolution

TODAY it is possible to buy the revelations of a dozen middle-ranking former Soviet secret agents from any Moscow street bookseller, but Pavel Sudoplatov, who has died aged 89, was one of the Soviet Union's master spies. As a lieutenant general he plotted the assassination of Trotsky, ran the agents who stole the secrets of the atom bomb and as director of the Administration of Special Tasks he fought the clandestine battles of the Cold War from his seventh floor office in the KGB's Lubyanka building in Moscow.

His career in the Soviet secret services, which spanned the three decades of Stalin's rule, ended abruptly when Sudoplatov became caught up in the in-fighting between rival factions after Stalin's death. He was arrested, accused of being a traitor and an enemy of the people and imprisoned for 15 years. Only after the collapse of the Soviet Union was Sudoplatov rehabilitated.

In his memoirs, *Special Tasks, The Memoirs of an Unwanted Witness* (1994), Sudoplatov asserted that Robert Oppenheimer, head of the Manhattan project, and his colleagues Niels Bohr, Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard, had knowingly co-operated with Soviet agents. It was a claim denied by both the FBI and later by Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service. As one of the few surviving veterans of Stalin's secret service he provided a rare insight into the world of state espionage.

Pavel Anatolievich Sudoplatov was born in the Ukrainian town of Melitopol to a Russian mother and a Ukrainian father. Aged 12, he ran away to join the Red Army and spent most of the civil war working as a telephone operator and cipher clerk for the Cheka (the Bolshevik secret police) in the Ukraine. He became involved in covert operations to monitor the Ukrainian nationalist movement and after the end of the civil war was a case officer running a network of informers in southern Ukraine.

Promoted, he was sent abroad to infiltrate the exiled Ukrainian nationalist organisation and became a close confidante of its leader, Yevhan Konovalets. Summoned to Moscow in 1938, he was personally entrusted by Stalin with the task of eliminating Konovalets. His account of how he blew up the Ukrainian leader with a bomb disguised as a box of chocolates primed to go off 30 minutes after it was tipped from a horizontal to a vertical position and his subsequent escape through Belgium, France and Spain provided a rare, though carefully self-censored, insight into the tradecraft and world of the Soviet spy — Sudoplatov remained a secret agent to the end.

Sudoplatov was fortunate to be one of the few agents not caught up in Stalin's purge of his boss Nikolai Yezhov and fellow NKVD colleagues. Instead, in 1939 he was again summoned to the Kremlin together with Lavrenti Beria, Yezhov's successor, and given the task by Stalin personally of eliminating Leon Trotsky, then in exile in Mexico.

Sudoplatov gathered together a team headed by Spanish communists who had worked for the Soviets during the Spanish Civil War. After the failure of the first attempt on Trotsky's life, Sudoplatov personally chose Ramon Mercader who carried out the task successfully.

Sudoplatov . . . master spy

When Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, Sudoplatov was appointed director of the Administration of Special Tasks. He was responsible for guerilla warfare and running agents in German occupied territory. Then, when relations between Stalin and his British and American allies cooled, Sudoplatov was naturally involved in operations against them. He credited Beria with having the foresight to realise the importance of the atom bomb and to direct resources, which Sudoplatov then controlled, to acquiring intelligence on its manufacture.

The defector Nikolai Khokhlov described him as a man whose "bearing, his polished manners, his quiet, confident speech denoted an important and intelligent man. He also knew the value of that studied simplicity in which only those in power can indulge". But his European reputation could not prevent his downfall. His links to Beria, a contender for power, and, he suspected, his knowledge of Nikita Krushchev's involvement in eliminating rivals in wartime Ukraine, led to his arrest in 1953 and to 15 years' imprisonment.

Politically naive, Sudoplatov did the Kremlin's dirty work. It was only when Stalin's postwar purge of Jews touched him personally — his wife, Emma, a fellow NKVD officer, was Jewish — that he began to question his rulers.

Despite appeals to Brezhnev he served his full term and on release, like fellow former agents, he used his foreign languages to translate children's books pseudonymously. With *glasnost*, he again pressed for his rehabilitation.

Though his request was turned down by Gorbachev, he was approached by the KGB to write accounts of operations he carried out and lecture young recruits. He also attracted the attention of historian Dmitri Volkogonov and through him American journalists Jerold and Leona Schlecter, who together with his son, Anatoli, collaborated on *Special Tasks*.

With the publication of a Russian version this year, Sudoplatov gave a final interview to a Moscow paper. He still asserted that he was no terrorist but a fighter in a war against terrorists who attacked the Soviet state. Finally rehabilitated, his rank and many awards restored and his contributions to Soviet espionage recognised, he considered himself a victim of Soviet repression as much as a perpetrator. He is survived by his son, an economist at Moscow University.

Isobel Montgomery

Pavel Anatolievich Sudoplatov, spy, born 1907; died September 24, 1996

Mark Frankel

In tireless pursuit of perfection

I FIRST met Mark Frankel, the actor, who has died tragically after a motorcycle accident aged 34, when he came to my flat. I was trying to find an actor to play the lead in *Leon the Pig Farmer*. Mark, fresh from playing Michelangelo in a mega budget television series, turned up dressed for the role — every inch the Jewish single male.

Sitting at my kitchen table, we ran through the scene where Leon forces himself to eat lobster to impress a non-Jewish girl. He was brilliant. It was two years before he did the scene again, this time for the camera.

What struck me then, and what struck everyone who knew him, was his presence. You wanted to be in his company. Drama school can't teach what he had. Many months later, when Vadim Jean and I met and agreed to make the film together, I insisted that I had found the right actor to play Leon. Vadim was equally insistent that he had found an actor whose show-reel he had cut some weeks before. It turned out to be the same actor. We three accepted this coincidence as a happy stroke of fate and got on with the business of making the film. Without Mark, there would have been no film.

He was born in Surrey. Aged 12 he went to school at Frensham Heights, where his talents and ambitions to become an actor were encouraged. In addition to drama, he studied psychology — the one informed the other and he was soon playing lead roles, a talent that was recognised when he won a scholarship to the Webber Douglas Academy. After graduating, he won rave reviews for his professional debut in *Days of Cavafy*, and within weeks was snapped up to play Michelangelo opposite F Murray Abraham. Typically, he was confident about the speed of his rise and just as typically was completely unaffected by it.

His career was divided equally between Los Angeles and the UK. He starred in the top rated US show *Sisters*. It was while his career was developing there, starring as an all-action hero in *Fortune Hunter*, that he agreed to do *Solitaire For 2* with me in London. It was typical of him (and natural for him) to put faith in a low budget feature being made by a friend. Every time a film school student offered him a short film, you could sense his American agent sweating. His shocking death has come before the release of *Roseanna's Grave* in which he stars with Jean Reno.

His approach to acting was methodical — but not without humour. He was a perfectionist, often insisting on another take, when he knew he had more to give. We went together to buy a watch for Leon, spent four hours in Brent Cross, and he eventually decided the right watch was the one I was wearing. In both *Leon* and *Solitaire*, I had invested pieces of myself. Mark took those pieces, turned them into a character and worked tirelessly to find every nuance. During the filming of *Leon*, his wife, Caroline, complained that if she had wanted to marry a neurotic Jewish estate agent she would have gone out and got one.

Despite this dedication and the inherent uncertainties of acting, he had his life in perspective. Caroline brought his weeks-old son, Fabien, to the *Solitaire* set. Mark's love for them both was so strong you could touch it.

Undoubtedly Mark had been deeply affected by the death of his brother Joe in an accident in 1990. For Mark, this only spurred on his amazing lust for life. He was a superb tennis player, an inspired raconteur, a parachutist, one of the most incompetent men at ordering food I have ever met, a fine actor and the most generous of friends. The legacy he leaves, personally and professionally, will be an inspiration to many.

Each memory I have of him is one of him smiling or laughing or being passionate about life. The saddest thing about his tragic death is that we are all deprived of memories to come. I already miss his future and his part in mine.

Gary Synor

Mark Frankel, actor, born June 13, 1962; died September 24, 1996

Unaffected by success . . . Mark Frankel in Leon the Pig Farmer

Letter

The Rev William Glenesk writes: To Larry Adler's fine remembrance of his years with dancer Paul Draper *(obituary, September 25)*, I should add a footnote from working with both of them in my New York City church some 30 years ago.

From the blacklist days (or years) Paul became a brilliant teacher, first at the Uta Hagen/Herbert Berghof School of Theatre, then, in the 1970s, when the old radical was theatre professor at Pittsburgh's Andrew Mellon University.

Ruth Draper, the famous monologuist, based in London and the US, was Paul's aunt. Like her, the imagination and uniqueness of his gifts, stand, like "the still point", alone.

I can't forget the rare flight of his churchly dance to JS Bach's chorale, *It is a friendly Day*. A joyous spirit, I suspect, turned his blacklisting into light.

Birthdays

Julie Andrews, actress, 61; **Margaret Bramall**, former director, National Council for One-Parent Families, 80; **Jimmy Carter**, former US president, 72; **Cardinal Cahal Daly**, Primate of All Ireland, 79; **Shirley Dex**, economist, 46; **Sandy Gall**, broadcaster, 69; **John Gray**, ambassador to Belgium, 60; **John Gunnell**, Labour MP, 63; **Richard Hambro**, chairman, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 50; **Prof Sir Stuart Hampshire**, philosopher, 82; **Richard Harris**, actor, 63; **Dave Holland**, jazz musician, 50; **Graham Leach**, broadcaster, 48; **Mary McFadden**, fashion designer, 58; **Walter Matthau**, actor, 76; **Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw**, educationist, 84; **Prof Sir Roland Smith**, industrialist, 68; **Rt Rev David Stancliffe**, Bishop of Salisbury, 54; **Prof Jean Thomas**, macromolecular biochemist, 54; **Paul Walsh**, footballer, 34.

Death Notices

OLEARSKI, Wladyslaw (Walter), suddenly at home with his daughter on the evening of 24th September, aged 74. Mass by Fr.T.Kukla at 1pm on Thursday, 3rd October at St Francis of Assisi, Pottery Lane, W11, followed by burial at Gunnersbury Cemetery, Chiswick, at 2.15. Members of the Polish community welcome, particularly wartime Royal Navy colleagues from The Garland. Flowers to John Nodes & Sons Ltd, 181 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 6HH.

ROBINSON, Hilda Margaret, in Edinburgh, on September 28 1996, Margaret, aged 90 years, wife of the late Edwin Brew Robinson of Manchester, mother of David and Alan, grandmother of Anne and Gill, John and Nicola, and great-grandmother of Zoe and Laura. Service at Warriston Crematorium Cloister Chapel on Thursday October 3rd at 11.45am.

ROSE, Jill R. of Withington, Manchester. Died 24th September aged 70. Funeral at Southern Cemetery Crematorium, Barlow Moor Road. Chorlton at 1pm on Thursday 3rd October. No arranged flowers. Details from 0161 881 9381.

WILSON, Dorothy Catherine (widow of David Butler Wilson), peacefully, 19 September, aged 98. Much loved mother of Catherine Robinson, Jean Macpherson, Anne Mallinson. Service of Thanksgiving: Saturday, 19 October, 4.00 p.m. St Mary's Church, Nether Alderley, Cheshire. No flowers. Donations in memory to Snailcombe House (Salvation Army) Bath BA2 6EJ.

Acknowledgments

PHILLIPS, Peter. June Phillips would like to thank all their relatives and friends for the support given to her by attending Peter's funeral, for the floral tributes and the donations in memory of Peter to the Mount Edgecumbe Hospice.

Memorial Services

A memorial service will be held for Duncan Montgomery Stewart MA, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall 1973-85, in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford on Saturday 26th October 1996 at 2.30pm.

Birthdays

BRAMALL, Margaret. Happy 80th Birthday wishes to a compassionate, caring campaigner for one-parent families (former Director of National Council for One Parent Families). With love from ex-colleagues and friends.

Marriages

Mr R.J.T. **CALLAND** & Miss G.S. **DAVIS**. The marriage took place on 28th September, 1996 in Paarl, R.S.A. of Richard Calland, son of Albert and Olwen Calland, Forge Mill, Caton, Lancaster, and Gabrielle, elder daughter of Beukes Davis and the late George Davis of Durban, Natal.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567. Fax 0171 713 4129.

Jackdaw

Heavenly help

HEAVENLY Father, look down on us your humble, obedient tourist servants who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech you, O Lord, to see that our plane is not hijacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed.

And if, perchance, we skip an historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us, our flesh is weak.

We pray that the telephones work and that the operators speak our tongue, and that there is no mail waiting from our children which would force us to cancel the rest of the trip.

Lead us, dear Lord, to good inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters friendly and the wine included in the price of the meal.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, the cathedrals, the palaces and the castles listed as "musts" in our guidebooks.

(This part of the prayer is for husbands):

Dear God, Keep our wives from shopping sprees and protect them from "bargains" they don't need or can't afford. Lead them not into temptation, for they know not what they do.

(This part of the prayer is for the wives):

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them to us. Save them from making fools of themselves in cafes and nightclubs. Above all, do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

And when our voyage is over and we return to our loved ones, grant us the favour of finding someone who will look at our home movies and listen to our stories, so that our lives as tourists will not have been in vain. This we ask in the name of Conrad Hilton, Thomas Cook and American Express. Amen.

A prayer for those who wander the earth, offered up in the Dundee Congregational Church *magazine.*

Predictable

DEAR Mr Prior,

I'm wondering if you've safely recieved the Lucky Talisman I sent you recently, in answer to your request. As I've mentioned to you already, the fact that you were born on Saturday 25 December 1974, under the sign of Capricorn, means that a really lucky spell is just around the corner for you. I was also anxious to explain that lucky chances have to be recognised and seized. That's why I offered to send you my horoscope-prediction, on a trial basis, without obligation, to help you get everything you can out of this super-lucky period. But I haven't heard anything back from you since I wrote.

I must admit I'm a bit surprised and saddened by this. Because I know that you in particular Mr Prior, really need to recognise and seize these opportunities that will be dangling within your grasp. If you do, your dreams can be fulfilled and you can get what you want out of life.

But it's important to act very quickly. If you don't act quickly, Mr Prior, it might be too late. And you never know, this may be the last lucky period that ever comes along. So to make sure that all the golden opportunities awaiting you and other Capricorns aren't wasted, I'm taking the liberty of asking you to complete and return the attached questionnaire as fast as you can. In fact today, if possible.

For you born on Saturday 25 December 1974, Mr Prior, these will be many fascinating glimpses into the future. As I mentioned to you in my previous letter, these will help you:

— to live your life to the full.
— to safeguard your health.
— to protect the future of your family and loved ones.
— to discover any hidden talents you have.
— to prevent misfortune.
— to learn the special secret of attracting luck.

I'm counting on your reply. Maria Duval, the most gifted medium of our era.

The hard sell of the miracle cure. Maria does charge £29.50 for her prediction but it's obviously worth it. Daniel Webb sent in the letter, mentioning it was the most recent example of a long one-way correspondence between Maria and himself. Her powers of prediction seemed to have failed in letting her know his name.

Gentile or Jew?

I WAS not, of course, physically afraid of the rich kids, as I was of players on the East End teams, some of whom were not even Jewish: bullet headed Richie "The Gob" Bridgend and Ian MacDonald, his partner on the wing, both of whom took the field for Stepney Lads. It was never clear if the presence of these boys was due to the fact that the East End was running out of Jews, or if Stepney's manager, desiring even wider margins of victory over the softies from the other side of the tracks, had simply recruited them from the other local schools.

Our own team's token Gentile was the goalkeeper, Paul V, but he was a kind of honorary Jew, and not a ringer. For fetishistic reasons of his own Paul only befriended Jewish boys and only dated Jewish girls. When other teams protested, as they sometimes did, about the appearance of non-Jews in the Jewish teams (the league rules were remarkably fuzzy in this area) a loose test was sometimes applied. Could the alleged Gentile repeat in Hebrew the first line of the Shena? Paul had been well coached and when the challenge came — at half time in a tournament match against the despised Goldars Green — he stood forward in all his gorgeous, turned up-nose, freckled blondeness, shook his Rod Stewart shag and announciated. The other team was not amused. "Pull his shorts down!" someone yelled. "What is this? Nazi Germany?" our manager wanted to know.

Jonathan Wilson recounts the trials and tribulations of being a Gentile in a Jewish team.

Jewish Quarterly . . . goals

Jewish Quarterly.

Waste not

ALLOWANCE
By-product
Cleavage loss
Contract cake
Cracking down
Deckle loss
Downgrade
Drainings
Dregs
Edgetrim
Extraction
Factory shop
Giveaway
Joins
Out of spec
Overissue
Pig food
Residue
Selvedge
Slow-moving stock
Swarf
Turn of scale
Usage allowance
Washings
Work in progress variance
Yield loss

Want not. Euphemisms for waste compiled in a waste guide, giving wastebusting tips. Thanks B Tyson.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Heroes and villains of Big Bang, page 12

£700 million lost as ADT deal collapses, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance **Guardian**

Souvenir hunters get flying start, duty-free

THE British Museum yesterday opened a duty-free shop at Heathrow Airport, where travellers can stock up on reproduction Greek bronze heads of Aphrodite (right) at £300 plus, or blue Egyptian scarabs at 45p, *writes Maev Kennedy*.

Patrick Wright, managing director of the British Museum Company, the museum's trading arm, concedes that the shop will be supplying souvenirs to tourists who never got round to visiting the museum, but would like to give the impression they have.

"I don't think it matters. It all increases interest in the museum and its wonderful collections, in the person who receives the gift as well as the giver."

What the shop's staff call "David's Bits" are already best-sellers. These are life-size reproductions of parts of Michaelangelo's David which were originally made in the 19th century as models for art students.

The airport shop is expected to increase the museum's profits by at least 50 per cent, to £1.5 million.

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Chunnel shares suspended

Risk of administration if talks on debt restructuring fail

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

DEBT encumbered Eurotunnel risks being placed into administration under French law unless there is a realistic prospect of agreeing the restructuring of its £8 billion borrowings with its consortium of 220 international banks.

Although Eurotunnel is still hopeful that a deal can be thrashed out over the next few days, it took the unusual step of yesterday suspending its shares to avoid a false market being created by speculation over the future of the company.

Well-placed sources close to the negotiations warned that a move to put the company into *administration protectif* — the French equivalent of the US Chapter 11 system of ring-fencing companies from their creditors — was being regarded as an option if the negotiations failed.

Any such move would result in shares being frozen indefinitely for the hundreds of thousands of small investors who hold 70 per cent of the company which is listed on both the London and Paris stock exchanges. Shares were suspended at 115p.

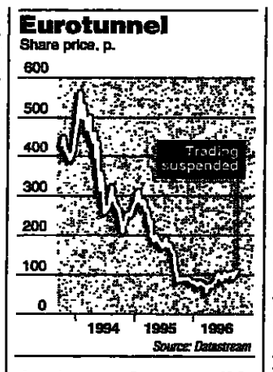
Lawyers acting for the French shareholder association, Adacte, said that banks would be hit hard by any move to put the company into administration. Georges Berlioz, a lawyer, said: "The banks would indisputably be heavily penalised by an insolvency procedure."

The warning came as both sides failed to strike an agreement by yesterday's expected deadline. A resolution had been expected as this date marks the expiry of the mandate of Lord Wakeham and his French counterpart, Robert Badinter, who had been appointed as arbitrators by the French court.

Co-chairman of Eurotunnel, Sir Alastair Morton, had whipped up expectation that a deal was pending when earlier this month he said that the company and banks were "eight hours" away from an agreement.

It is understood that an outline financing agreement has been agreed in principle which is likely to involve a massive "debt-for-equity" transfer: the conversion of outstanding bank borrowing into shares to be held by the banks. If implemented, this is likely to see the banks holding up to 49 per cent of the company.

However, there are still disputes surrounding the hugely complicated restructuring programme, which includes the issue of convertible bonds.



Sources suggest that if a deal can be struck it will be finalised over the next week.

Eurotunnel yesterday declined to make any formal comment. The talks are being headed by Midland and National Westminster banks, together with their French counterparts, Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais. But the consortium has had difficulty in forming a consensus because of the different vested interests which include the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Investment Bank.

Analysts last night remained sceptical about when a deal could be reached. One said: "The trouble is that this has been going on for so long that it is difficult to know how seriously to take it."

Despite its financial problems, Eurotunnel has increased its market share against stiff competition from the rival ferries. Latest figures show that it now commands about 45 per cent of the cross-channel market although it has been building up traffic by slashing prices for its Le Shuttle services.

But things could be even worse if no agreement is reached and Eurotunnel is obliged to go into *administration protectif*. This could lead to an indefinite suspension of shares and further hamper attempts to strike up any kind of refinancing agreement.

Putting the company into any kind of administration would be the worst of all possible options. The only way forward is to give Eurotunnel the means to support its bank borrowings by restructuring the company. And the sooner this is resolved, the better for all concerned.

Demand matters

POLITICIANS always put on a show for the party faithful at conference time. The activists who knock on doors — or tele-canvas, these days — expect a bit of knockabout, and they get it.

Gordon Brown's offering in Blackpool yesterday was a classic of its genre. It had some sideswipes at Kenneth Clarke, a dig at Lord Saatchi and umpteen swings on the "boardroom excesses" of the privatised utilities.

The shadow chancellor dutifully received the standing ovation that is seen as the right of every Labour frontbencher. And to some extent it was deserved. The idea was to contrast Labour's one-nation approach to the economy with the Government's skewing of rewards to the "privileged few".

A more careful analysis of the speech, however, revealed a few weaknesses. The fact that Labour is unprepared to assert that those guilty of boardroom excess should pay higher income tax means that it has had to fall back on a one-off windfall tax on the utilities to fund its back-to-work programme. Even if Mr Brown grabs £5 billion, he is only talking about less than 1 per cent of GDP on a non-recurring basis.

This underlines a more serious problem. Labour's approach to the economy, as outlined by Mr Brown, is entirely aimed at the supply side. There is barely a mention of demand, and where there is, it is to deny that demand management has any place in the running of modern Britain.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Supply side measures have their place, but will only be fully effective if demand is expanded to ensure there are jobs for university graduates and 18-year-old trainees.

Expansionist policies are possible without reigniting inflation, as the US has shown over the past four years. The Blairite modernisers have learned many lessons from across the Atlantic: it would be bizarre indeed if the most important lesson of all fell on deaf ears.

Consult, please

STILL smarting from the sacking of its last chief executive, Michael Lawrence, over market reforms, the Stock Exchange can ill afford more controversy about its plans to restructure the market with a new order-driven share dealing system. For all its effort to liase with the City, however, it now looks like the Exchange faces dissent over its proposals for the market's biggest overhaul since the 1986 Big Bang.

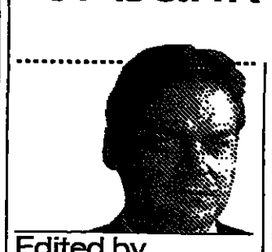
Both the Exchange and the City believe that London needs to restructure its dealing system to hold its own in the fast-moving European equity markets. There is a general belief that the City will have to evolve to an order-driven market, whereby dealers post up the size and price of deals they are prepared to trade on electronic bulletin boards. This could represent a steady phasing out of traditional "market making" operations which involve dealers competing for orders on the basis of price.

But although the Exchange has the City's backing in principle, it risks jeopardising its position because of the speed with which it is pushing through this reform — without sorting out either the tax implications or technical problems involved in dealing in major trades.

The Exchange must resolve these differences promptly if it wants to avoid the risk of becoming embroiled in yet another City row.

Notebook

Hole in ground for bank funds



Edited by Patrick Donovan

Holiday Inn's chief checks out in a hurry

Ian King

ONE of the biggest jobs in the hotel industry was up for grabs last night after Tim Lane, president and chief executive of Holiday Inn, resigned after only seven months in the post.

Bass, the brewing and leisure group which owns Holiday Inn, said 47-year-old Mr Lane — who is likely to receive a seven-figure compensation payment — had resigned because of "fundamental differences" over management.

But City analysts reacted with surprise at the nature of Mr Lane's resignation, suggesting Bass had effectively prompted his departure, and claimed that the company faced a severe management problem at Holiday Inn.

In a terse statement, issued after the market closed, Bass said it had accepted Mr Lane's resignation with "immediate effect" and that he would be replaced by Bryan Langton, his predecessor in the post.

However, Bass's rules require executives to retire at the age of 60, which was why Mr Lane was brought in to replace Mr Langton, who is currently Holiday Inn's chairman and who was due to leave Bass in December.

Sources at Bass admitted there were "differences" with Mr Lane but sought to play down talk of a crisis, insisting that because Mr Lane had not yet formally joined the Bass board he would not be entitled to as much compensation as might be expected.

According to Bass's most recent annual report, Mr Langton received a total salary and pension package of £606,000, although it is thought that Mr Lane, as an American based in Atlanta, would have been earning substantially more.

A Bass spokesman said: "We are not giving details of any pay-offs. We don't discuss an individual's arrangements with the company."

The spokesman said there had been no "black holes" at Holiday Inn but admitted there were "organisational differences" about how the business should be managed.

He added: "You have to keep an organisation like Holiday Inn going forward, and the manner in which he was going about it was not the way we felt he should."

City analysts suggested that Mr Lane may have left to prevent the possibility that other senior managers at Holiday Inn might resign in protest at his management style.

One said Bass would have to be careful in selecting a permanent replacement for Mr Lane because it could not be seen to have "made the same mistake twice".

He added: "You get the impression that Lane was a bit like a bull in a china shop. Holiday Inn was performing very strongly and had already been turned round — it appeared he was trying to do it again."

Bass, which completed the full acquisition of Holiday Inn in 1990 for $2.8 billion (£1.8 billion), surprised the hotel industry when it appointed Mr Lane in February.

Mr Lane, who came from PepsiCo Restaurants, where he had been running the Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Kentucky Fried Chicken operations in Asia, had not previously worked in the hotel industry, although his franchising experience was seen as highly relevant.

In its most recent trading statement, Bass said Holiday Inn made pre-tax profits of £76 million, up 18.8 per cent, the 28 weeks to April 13.

Brent Walker recoups £117m from betting stake of seven years ago

Roger Cowe

WILLIAM Hill lost £8 million and paid out more than £500,000 to one gambler as part of a £30 million hit from Saturday's performance by Frankie Dettori, who rode all seven winners at Ascot — breaking records and almost doing the same for the bank at the country's betting shops.

"This was the worst day in bookmaking history; our equivalent of a stock market crash, a real Black Saturday," said Graham Sharpe of William Hill.

In a stock market statement, Stanley Leisure said the winning streak would hit its first-half results by some £2.25 million. Its shares fell 7½p to 234½p.

Ladbroke said it did not know how much it had lost. But a spokesman added that the industry could win in the end because of the publicity generated. "Frankie Dettori has actually done the industry a lot of good."

A SEVEN-YEAR legal battle came to an end yesterday with an arbitrator's ruling that the struggling leisure group Brent Walker overpaid when it bought the William Hill and Mecca betting chains from Grand Metropolitan in 1989.

Ray Hinton of the accountants Arthur Andersen ruled that Brent Walker had paid £117 million too much for the £685 million acquisition because the betting profits were overstated. Brent Walker had sought to retrieve £235 million.

GrandMet will end up paying only £36 million because Brent Walker had withheld £50 million of the purchase price, which with accumulated interest totalled £82 million.

The row was based on the profitability of the betting chains when they were sold. Under GrandMet's accounting practices, profits of £55 million were declared for the year to September 1989. This was the sum on which the purchase price was based.

But Mr Hinton said yesterday that the true profits were less than £46 million.

A spokesman for Grand Metropolitan stressed that the company's accounting practices had been approved by auditors, and that accounting standards had been tightened considerably since the late 1980s.

He said the difference hung on the issue of reorganisation costs. GrandMet had excluded the cost of "parallel running" administrative functions following its acquisition of William Hill from Sears.

Because a decision had been taken to close one of the offices, the cost of that office was treated as exceptional, thus inflating the profits that were declared to Brent Walker.

The purchase was the last in Brent Walker's dramatic acquisition spree, which saw it grow from a small property-based business to a leisure conglomerate.

Soon after the acquisition, the company hit a financial crisis. George Walker, the firm's founder, was forced out and subsequently found not guilty after being prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office.

The company has been supported by bankers, who hoped for an orderly disposal of its remaining assets.

Yesterday's decision is likely to advance the sale of the William Hill chain, although several details still have to be agreed between Brent Walker and GrandMet.

GrandMet said yesterday that it hoped to settle outstanding matters quickly. But Brent Walker said it would have to agree interest on the sum now due to it, as well as costs.

Interest on the £117 million could come to £80 million. But GrandMet said the amount should not be subject to interest because there had been no breach of contract.

World Bank plans poverty watch

Richard Thomas in Washington

THE World Bank is planning a new watchdog to monitor the social effect of its development programmes, to counter claims that its policies are failing the world's poorest people.

As the finance ministers of the main industrialised nations yesterday put the final touches to an initiative to ease the debt burden on Third World countries, bank officials admitted that many lending and debt relief schemes had little effect on the lives of poor people.

The bank's central policy committee has now approved a report from a task group on social development, commissioned by managing director James Wolfensohn. The paper calls for $7 million (£4 million) to be channelled into a high-profile "Social Learning Group" within the Bank, charged with assessing the effect of all bank policies on inequality, poverty and the gender gap.

The unpublished report — passed to the Guardian — calls on Mr Wolfensohn to commit the bank to a more socially aware development philosophy. It warns that the bank's Country Assistance Strategies, which set out targets for reform of markets and tough fiscal controls, have a bias towards strictly economic outcomes. "The strategy may proceed from an incomplete or even false understanding of key issues and the social dynamics of development," the paper warns.

"An assistance strategy which satisfies the bank and the government may fail as a tool for improving the lives of poor people in the borrowing country."

While the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, yesterday threw his weight behind an initiative from the World Trade Organisation to help poor countries trade their way out of poverty, the bank paper warns that growth rates or export volumes may not equate to a better standard of living for the bulk of the population.

The WTO director-general, Renato Ruggiero, yesterday called on Western countries to abolish tariffs on imports from the most indebted nations, and said he would be pushing WTO members to commit themselves to trade reform.

Mr Ruggiero said linking labour standards to trade liberalisation was still the most thorny issue dividing the industrialised countries, with Britain fiercely resisting any connection of trade and social legislation.

Aid agencies said the reluctance to use trade as a lever for enforcing better labour and social standards increased pressure on the bank to integrate social outcomes into its development strategy.

Lang says firms would pay dear for Labour Euro plan

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

IAN Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, yesterday warned that Tony Blair had effectively signed "a blank cheque" on behalf of British companies by committing Labour to the European Social Chapter on working conditions.

Mr Lang's warning that the commitment could cost British industry billions of pounds came on the day that shadow chancellor Gordon Brown reaffirmed Labour's plans to sign up to the Social Chapter — from which the Government negotiated an opt-out.

"Tony Blair is deceiving himself and misleading the country if he thinks he can sign on and escape the consequences," Mr Lang said. "The Government believes that accepting the Social Chapter would be tantamount to signing a blank cheque."

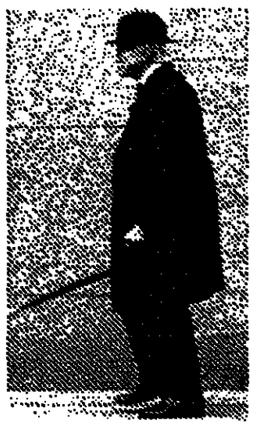
Mr Lang was launching a government booklet which sets out its opposition to the Social Chapter. Translated into French, German, Spanish and Italian, the 16-page booklet will be sent to tens of thousands of British and continental companies, MPs and MEPs.

It claims in a Eurosceptic tone that the competitiveness of British business and thousands of UK jobs would be jeopardised by accepting the Chapter. Unfavourable examples of continental practice are cited, and Pierre Godfroid, chairman of the loss-making Belgian airline Sabena, is quoted as saying: "If Sabena were established in the UK and had only to apply British costs to its personnel, then Sabena would be in profit today."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

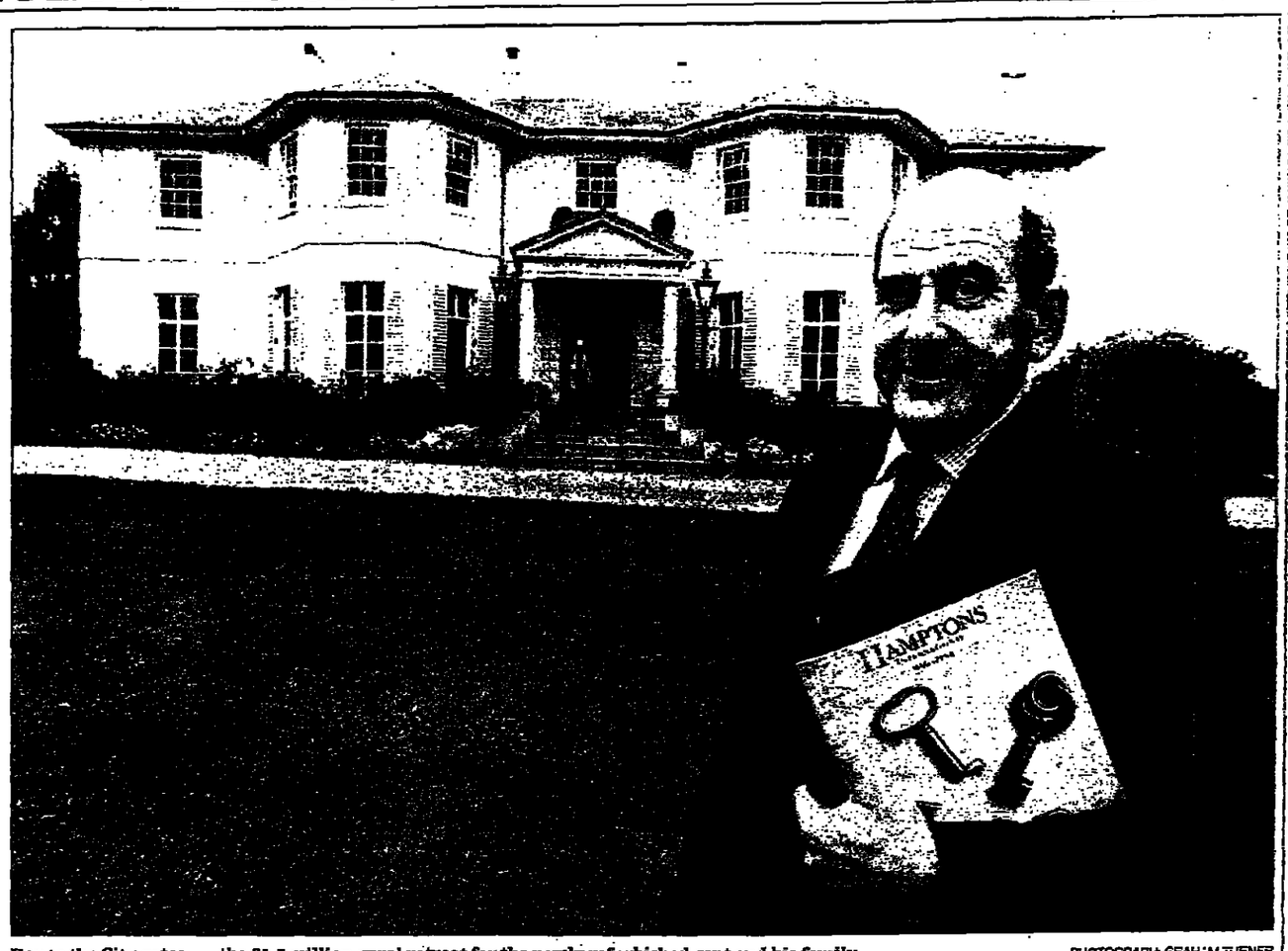
Australia 1.9075	France 7.80	Italy 2,333	Singapore 2.145
Austria 16.26	Germany 2.3125	Malta 0.548	South Africa 6.87
Belgium 47.50	Greece 388.25	Netherlands 2.59	Spain 194.25
Canada 2.077	Hong Kong 11.76	New Zealand 2.17	Sweden 10.18
Cyprus 0.703	India 55.74	Norway 9.90	Switzerland 1.89
Denmark 8.91	Ireland 0.9475	Portugal 236.00	Turkey 137,220
Finland 7.082	Israel 4.99	Saudi Arabia 5.62	USA 1.5250

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



BIG BANG
10 years on

In the second of our series, DAN ATKINSON charts the hedonism that couldn't last after the crash on Black Monday



Key to the City gates . . . the £1.5 million rural retreat for the newly refurbished gent and his family PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Rise and fall of the young ones

IN A distant era of human history BBB (Before Big Bang), the City was populated by bowler-hatted gents who "worked" leisurely hours, spent half their lives doing crosswords on trains and the other half dozing in club armchairs.

Or so the myth-makers would have you believe. In fact, old-school City types, whether on the Exchange floor, in merchant banks or at Lloyd's, always broke sweat when necessary.

But, unlike their successors — the soft young men and women of Big Bang — they did not make a song and dance about it.

Nor did they advertise their out-of-hours high-jinks, despite the fact that the much-publicised champagne-guzzling of the late 1980s probably registered no higher on the intoximeter than some of the epic lunches and evening entertainments of earlier decades.

Insofar as the image of general lethargy was ever true, it applied largely to the City's professionals, the accountants and solicitors. In law and accounting, there has been a real revolution of working habits and environment: the vast new merged firms, housed in office blocks resembling Aztec temples, would be as unrecognisable to the managing partners of yesteryear as the frantic, round-the-clock activity on behalf of "the client".

But if there was one thing the eighties media loved more than a lifestyle, it was a lifestyle "that has changed out of all recognition". So it was decreed that Big Bang marked Year Zero for a new breed in the City.

Which, despite the exaggerations, it did — although in the early days it was not the high-rolling of the new young rich that commanded attention but their clean living and, above all, their dedication to work.

The newly-minted young professionals furnished their homes in Islington, Highbury and "south Chelsea" (Battersea) with classic good taste: special attention was given to kitchen fittings and culinary equipment.

Their one real indulgence was their cars (solid BMWs were favourite), their one real social forum the dinner party.

This lifestyle spoke of a certain earnestness and reliability, an image shattered beyond repair by Black Monday on October 19, 1987.

The crash proved beyond doubt that the new, young "talent" was not up to the job. While the "young professionals" stared in disbelief at their screens, it was left to the despised veterans to rally the troops and hold the fort.

The media never really forgave the shock workers for Black Monday.

As 1987 turned into 1988, the spotlight shifted from the long hours, the work-hard, play-hard, keep-fittery and the impeccable personal taste on to lurid tales of cocaine addiction on trading floors, of 10-pint lager sessions followed by the "quest for fire" (a curry) and a ride home on the "vomit comet" trains out of Liverpool Street.

Exit the Yuppie, enter — courtesy of Midweek magazine — the Yobbie.

By the end of the decade, young men in stripey shirts had undergone what they would call a "status change". No longer the answer to Britain's economic problems, they were relabelled, identified as part of the problem. The public loves a winner, but by the dawn of the nineties, the "young professionals" were looking like losers.

As one bank after another repented its Big Bang involvement, thousands of jobs were lost. Citibank pulled out, as did Morgan Grenfell.

By 1992, as experts estimated a total loss on Big Bang of £4 billion, the great merry-go-round slowed. For those still in gainful employment, bonuses evaporated as the telephones stopped ringing — clients were few and far between in the early nineties.

And, as the sharks were starved of meat, so the sucker-fish died: trendy wine bars, night clubs and restaurants collapsed, followed by suit-shops, smoked-salmon outlets and all-round "gentlemen's emporia".

In the night-life hierarchy, everyone moved down a rung — high-flyers abandoned champagne palaces and designer restaurants for the simpler pleasures of the wine bar, previously the haunts of more junior members, who were now rediscovering the delights of the pub.

The clouds have lifted since then, and the 1993 Goldman Sachs bonus bonanza even made the City look sexy again, for a while. New restaurants are springing up in Smithfield to service the inner men of the Square Mile, and property prices are on the march once more.

But closer study discloses that, in a strange way, City lifestyles have come a full circle in a decade.

Today's spenders are not loud young men in their twenties boasting of "pressure" jobs, but those at executive or partner level whose positions and incomes are as certain as anything can be in 1996. The young ones are back at their dealing desks, heads down, noses applied firmly to grindstone. Good food and wine, a palatial home, these things are reserved for their elders if not betters.

As, of course, is the time to enjoy crossword puzzles.

Top brass abandon town to bury their gold in rural piles

LIVING room, kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms — and that's just the porter's lodge. The big house itself runs to 14 bedrooms, a wine cellar, a courtyard and a "strong room".

This is Toddington Park, Bedfordshire (seen above), the hardest evidence yet that swelling City salaries really have brought the housing market back from the grave. Somewhere out there is a well-established City gent with a large family who needs spend only the odd day in Town and who may well decide this is just the place to hang his hat for a while.

And the cost? Hamptons of St James's, which is handling the sale, is looking for £1.5 million, about double what could have been expected a few years ago during the pit of the recession. That's the sort of money to make even a junior partner at Goldman Sachs have a rethink. Even so, Charles Mackenzie, Hamptons's country-house director, reckons even a more down-to-earth period home could be hitting the £1 million mark now.

The City may have been through a lean time but the survivors are back in force as earnings — for the big brass, at least — roar ahead. Late-marrying City analysts, directors, solicitors and other professionals are shifting to the sticks, sending top prices back to between 70 and 120 per cent of their 1988 peak.

The very best homes, Mr Mackenzie warned, are for the gold-plated elite; traders and market-makers, who need to be close to the City, are unlikely to join the party. This is strictly an event for those able to "show" either a substantial cash pile of their own or (increasingly rare) a super-secure top job. Crazed borrowing, 1980s-style, is out, said Mr Mackenzie, as is the scramble to buy a house — any house.

"The least popular house was popular in '89," he said. "Now there is a degree of sense in the market." Today, he said, the high-earners prefer homes they can be happy in to homes with which they can speculate.

Novel, but nice.

£700m lost as ADT deal collapses

Tony May

MORE than £700 million was wiped off the market value of Michael Ashcroft's ADT group after the Bermuda-based security and car auction company said its $1 billion (£2.7 billion) merger with Republic Industries had collapsed.

The all-share deal with Republic, a US waste disposal company, would have created the largest security firm in the US. Mr Ashcroft stood to make about £200 million from the deal.

But the plan ran into trouble after Republic's share price dropped by nearly one third at a time when US stock markets were booming.

The merger also met serious opposition from Western Resources, a US utility company with a 24 per cent stake in ADT. In a filing with Wall Street watchdog the Securities and Exchange Commission, Western Resources said that it found the all-share nature of the deal unacceptable.

Later, the companies were said to be haggling over the terms of the transaction, with some sources speculating that Mr Ashcroft was seeking new terms in order to protect ADT shareholders against volatility in Republic's share price.

Yesterday ADT and Republic blamed the breakdown on "uncertainty, mainly attributable to stock market conditions over the past two months". ADT's share price fell 88p to 1,200p.

Mr Ashcroft said: "The delay in completing the transaction forced both companies to put business expansion plans on hold for too long. They will now be free to resume their individual business plans."

Jeffrey Kessler, an analyst at Lehman Brothers, put ADT back on his buy-list yesterday, arguing that ADT was likely to strengthen its position and market share, partly through acquisitions.

He added that new products could add as many as 100,000 accounts in 1997, and went on to predict that another suitor for the group could emerge in the next two or three years.

Republic chairman and chief executive Wayne Huizenga said: "We have agreed this combination is no longer in the best interests of our respective companies."

This is the first blow to Mr Huizenga's plans to create a mammoth group with interests in security, rubbish collection and used-car superstores. He has engineered more than 30 acquisitions since taking over the formerly sleepy rubbish-haulier just over a year ago.

News in brief

Refuge wins over merger opponents

REFUGE Group, the door-to-door life insurance company that is proposing a merger with industry rival United Friendly, headed off a shareholder rebellion yesterday by offering investors a sweetener.

The company said it had devised a new type of security that would guarantee shareholders access to any surplus assets in its life fund beyond the £430 million already released.

Britannic Assurance, which holds just over 10 per cent of Refuge shares and had opposed the merger, indicated it would accept the new terms. The deal will create United Assurance, the UK's fourth-largest door-to-door insurer. — *Richard Miles*

Newsprint costs Guardian

THE Guardian Media Group yesterday blamed higher newsprint prices and an increase in redundancy payments for a 26 per cent drop in profits to £20.1 million in the year to March. The cost of newsprint rose by £10.3 million. The redundancy charge was £4.7 million, against £3.4 million the year before.

But the company, whose stable includes the Guardian and Observer as well as regional publications and broadcasting interests, said underlying trading was stronger than the headline figures suggested. Newsprint prices were easing and, although advertising volume was not buoyant, chairman Harry Roche said it was "reasonable to expect some growth". The company said costs associated with the transfer of newspaper printing to West Ferry from the Guardian Press Centre, which was damaged by an IRA bomb, were expected to total about £20 million and would be shown in next year's accounts. — *Lisa Buckingham*

Britannia buys home loans

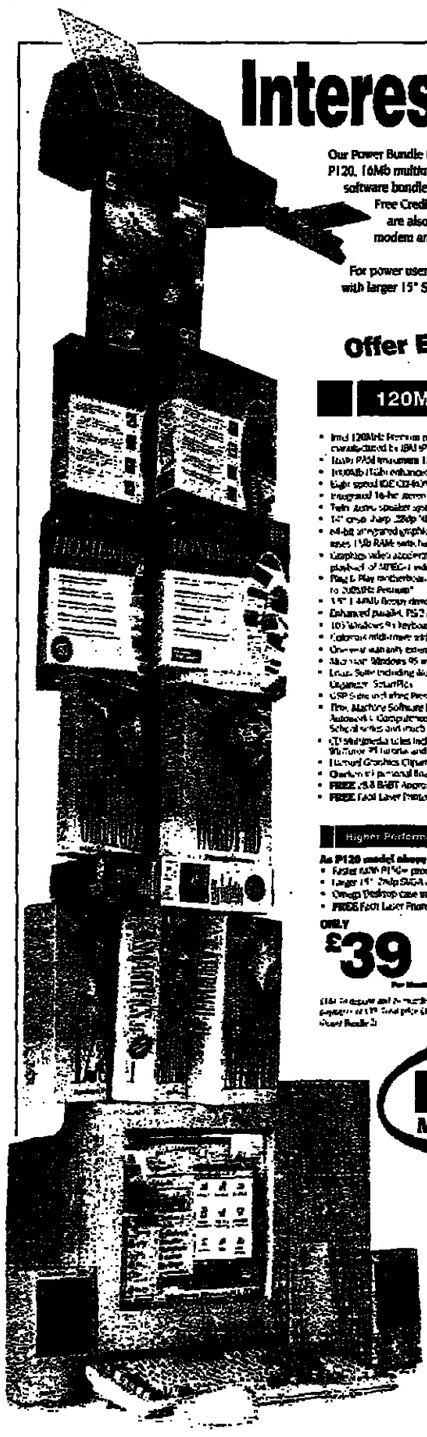
BRITANNIA, the UK's sixth-largest building society, has bought Citibank's £1.1 billion mortgage portfolio for an undisclosed sum. The society will be sending letters to holders of the 30,000 residential mortgages involved, explaining how their loans are to be administered. — *Jill Papworth*

Kepit comes clean

KEPIT, the ailing £500 million Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust at the centre of a bidding war, yesterday came clean on the terms of its recommended cash offer to shareholders. Directors of Kepit said its offer was worth 106.4p per share and one-fifth warrant, compared with 104.8p from hostile bidder TR European Growth. — *Richard Miles*

Droning on – eight years late

PHOENIX, the army's £227 million battlefield reconnaissance drone, has been given fresh Ministry of Defence endorsement after 11 years of technical failure. The decision, after 12 months of remedial work by GEC Marconi at the company's expense, means the drone should enter service in 1998 — eight years late and way over the contract price of £80 million. The small pilotless aeroplane is launched from the back of a lorry. The problem has been landing it again without smashing the electronic equipment with which it sends back pictures of artillery targets. The solution is a parachute and airbag. — *David Fairhall*



Interest Free Power Bundle

Our Power Bundle multimedia system includes a powerful P120, 16Mb multimedia PC system together with a massive software bundle at an amazing £35 per month on Interest Free Credit. For a limited period, for early orders we are also offering a FREE 28.8 BABT fax/data/internet modem and a FREE Facit Laser Printer Pack!

For power users we recommend the faster P150+ model with larger 15" SVGA colour screen for just £39 per month.

P120 Model
Power Bundle 1
ONLY £35 Per Month

APR 0%

Interest Free Credit is subject to status. Minimum age 18 years. Written quotations available on request. Typical example: Cash price £1199 inc VAT. Deposit £199. Amount of credit £1000. 36 monthly payments of £35. Total amount payable £1459. Typical APR 0%. Hours Bundle 1).

Offer Ends 3rd October

120MHz Multimedia Tower System (Power Bundle 1)

- Intel 120MHz Pentium processor (P120 model) or Intel P150+ processor manufactured by IBM (P150+ model - see below)
- 16Mb EDO 4 Mb enhanced IDE hard disk
- Eight speed IDE CD-ROM drive
- Integrated 16-bit stereo sound
- Twin Active speaker system and positioned woofer
- 14" crisp sharp .28dp SVGA screen
- 64-bit integrated graphics
upgrades 1 Mb RAM cards available to 2Mb for increased resolution/colours
- Graphics video accelerator with software MPEG facility, allowing playback of MPEG-1 video CDs
- Plug & Play motherboard with Intel socket 7 allows upgradability to 200MHz Pentium
- 3.5" 1.44Mb floppy drive
- Enhanced parallel, PS/2 mouse and 2 high speed serial ports
- 101 Windows 95 keyboard and mouse
- Colour multi-mode with 7 dots pitch
- One year warranty extendable to 3 or 5 years
- Microsoft Windows 95 with manual and CD
- Lotus Suite including Word Pro 96, 1-2-3 Approach 96, Organiser, SmartPics
- USB Suite including Perspective DTP, Designworks, Money & Homebase
- Five Matching Software Bundle - CD Suite including Turbo CAD, PC Paint, Autoroute, Compuchemistry, EZ Language French, German, Spanish, Fun School series and much more
- CD Multimedia titles including Encarta 95, Encyclopedia Britannica, Dinosaurs, Virtual Garden and more
- Harvard Graphics Clipart
- Quicken UK personal finance CD (product offer)
- FREE 28.8 BABT Approved internal fax/data/internet modem (limited offer)
- FREE Facit Laser Printer (limited offer - see below)

Superb Features

16Mb RAM Improved 16Mb RAM for best performance with Windows 95. 16Mb also allows you to multi-task several applications at the same time. Do not consider an 8Mb system.

Fast Processor The Intel Pentium 120MHz is a high performance processor providing superb performance. This system comes complete with a fan to help keep cool for further enhanced performance. If for even more power we recommend our P150+ system which includes a faster P150+ processor manufactured by IBM.

1000Mb Hard Disk Massive 1Gb Fast Enhanced IDE hard drive to give you plenty of storage for years.

Fast 64-bit Graphics & Software MPEG The latest advanced graphics with Software MPEG allows smooth playback of MPEG videos. Advanced design allows upgrading to 2Mb to yield higher resolution, more colours and more detail.

Eight Speed Multimedia Fast eight speed CD drive with 16-bit stereo sound, 16 watt stereo speakers, headset and low-light-level CD multimedia titles all are included.

Massive Software Bundle Microsoft Windows 95 together with the latest Windows 95 software suite from Lotus Plus over 20 other applications and great CD multimedia titles. Our biggest software bundle offering!

FREE Laser Printer The Facit Laser Printer pack which is worth £199 is available FREE with the first 500 orders limited offer.

FREE 28.8 Fax/Data/Internet Modem Your PC becoming a telephone for faxing and you can easily link to the Internet. Do not consider a multimedia PC without a modem. (limited offer).

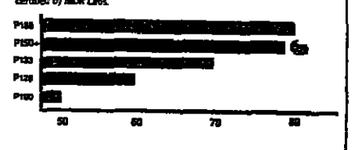
Higher Performance P150+ Model (Power Bundle 2)

As P120 model above but with:
- Faster IBM P150+ processor manufactured in USA
- Larger 15" 2Mb SVGA colour screen
- Omega Desktop case instead of Mini-tower
- FREE Facit Laser Printer and 28.8 modem are also included (limited offers)

ONLY £39 Per Month

Processor Performance

Relative processor performance based on Ziff Davis Winstone 96™ as enrolled by MDR Labs.



Free 28.8 BABT Approved Fax/Data/Internet Modem. Until Offer Ends

Free Laser Printer Suitable for Long Term Print Demands. First 500 orders Only

Included
An extensive range of CD multimedia and business titles along with a PC keyboard until offers end.

01282 777 111 TIME

Lines Open: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-5pm Time Computers Ltd, Hesse Buildings, 64 Stewart Street, Burnley, Lancs BB12 7DT

Green tax fails to please anyone

ROGER COWE on the landfill levy that has united opposing camps

FROM this morning, rubbish dumped in landfill sites will be subject to a "green tax". Every tonne of waste will be charged an extra £2 if it is inert material, or £7 for other waste, including local authority collections of household refuse.

The tax has taken two years to come to fruition, and has been widely criticised on all sides.

The Environmental Services Association, the trade body which represents waste collection companies, said yesterday that the tax would add to costs and push up council tax bills.

Friends of the Earth, however, said the tax was not high enough to achieve its objective of reducing the amount of rubbish dumped in landfill sites.

"It's a small green step in the right direction. But it won't really work," said FoE campaigner Mike Childs.

On this point the two sides agree. ESA chairman and chief executive, Peter Neill, said: "I am sceptical whether isolated economic instruments will be enough to encourage sustainable waste management."

There is also agreement on the overall objective of reducing rubbish dumping. Apart from being a waste of potentially valuable resources, landfill sites can be a source of pollution, both through leaching in to land and water sources and through the creation of the greenhouse gas, methane, as rubbish decomposes.

But that is where the consensus ends. FoE cites a study for the Government by consultants Coopers & Lybrand which estimated that the current level of tax will increase recycling by only 1 per cent. It wants the tax set at a minimum £30 per tonne and it wants that sum also levied on incineration, to avoid the levy diverting waste from landfill sites to incinerators, which it believes are dangerous and do not encourage sustainability.

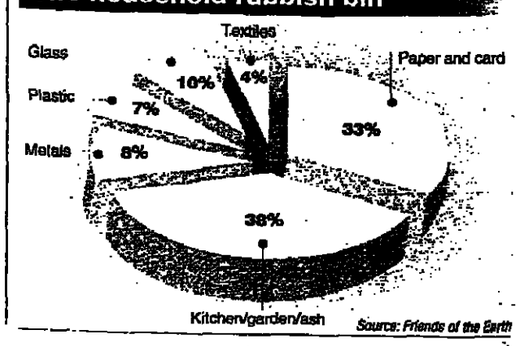
The industry is concerned that now the tax is in place, the sum could easily be increased by a hard-up Chancellor, just like tax on booze or cigarettes. And it argues that a hefty landfill bill will increase illegal fly-tipping.

There is not even agreement on the greenest part of the plan — the creation of Environmental Trusts, financed by up to 20 per cent of the tax revenues.

Everyone agrees they are a good thing, but FoE worries that they will be supervised by a regulator largely controlled by the industry.

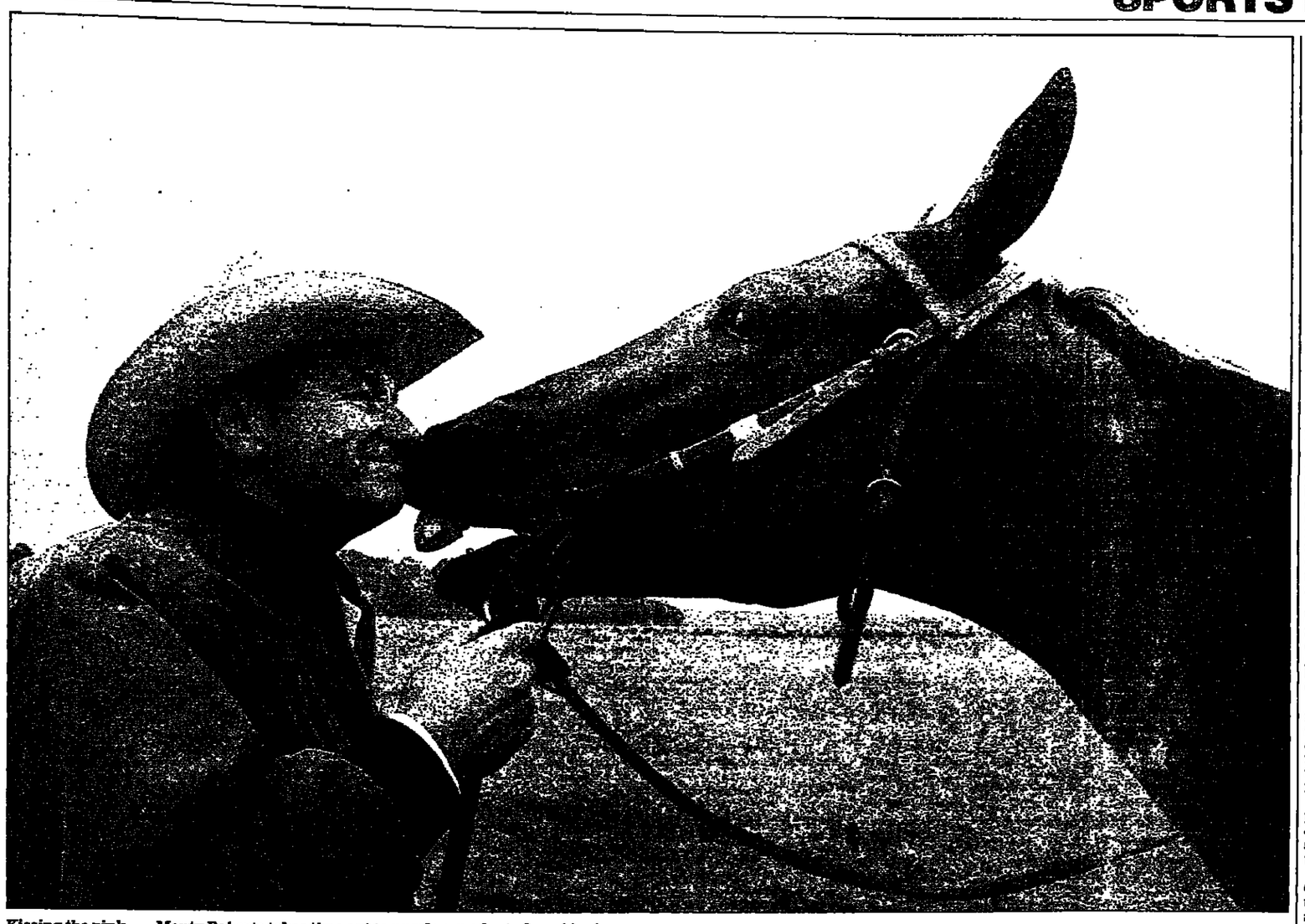
The tax will not even help the Chancellor in his Budget arithmetic, since he promised from the start that the impact on industry would be neutral. The sums raised for the Treasury will be offset by reductions in national insurance contributions.

The household rubbish bin



Source: Friends of the Earth

A 61-year-old former rodeo rider brings his methods to racing in Britain



Kissing the pink . . . Monty Roberts takes time out to nuzzle a graduate from his classes

Courses for horses – the Roberts regime

Report by **Jill Turner**
Photographs by **Richard Wintle**

HORSES listen to Monty Roberts. The 61-year-old American spent his youth studying wild mustangs on the Nevada plains and claims to have taught himself their language. As a result he can persuade a barely handled, highly strung novice to accept bridle, saddle and rider in less than 30 minutes.

Horses may be quickly receptive to the former rodeo rider but some members of the racing fraternity have been harder to woo. This angers the American who, as a boy, was traumatised by the experience of watching his father beating horses into submission to "break" them.

The adult Monty developed his own training methods based on trust and mutual respect. "The absence of communication between man and horse has led to a disastrous history of cruelty and abuse and it is counter-productive," said Roberts while in Lambourn last month.

"We haven't captured the willing co-operation of the horse nearly as much as we might have done and that is our considerable loss — both in emotional terms and with respect to the performance and work we might selfishly gain from them."

Roberts, who inspired the best-selling novel and forthcoming film The Horse Whisperer, bases his methods on equine psychology. Horses, he says, are flight animals and need the security of numbers. Once they have been taken from a group they will want to "join up" with another or, failing that, a human being for safety. When they trust a human they will willingly comply — a lot quicker than if forced into submission.

There was a telling example earlier this year. The trainer Con Marnane in the Republic of Ireland had attended one of Roberts's talks and was anxious to try the methods on a sloppy colt he was trying to break.

Marnane created a round pen in one of the back paddocks and began the "join-up" procedure. Surprised, the animal complied — for a while. Then he ducked under the tapes and galloped off to the far corner of the paddock; it took 20 minutes to catch and return him. At the next attempt he again broke out and cantered around the field. However, he took less time to catch and trotted back meekly. He also fled a third and final time but this time stood waiting to be caught. Within half an hour he was accepting a saddle and bridle and returned to the stable-yard as meek as a lamb, following the trainer nose to shoulder. The team were flabbergasted; two months' work had been accomplished in a morning.

Henry Cecil, Sir Mark Prescott and the German trainer Andreas Wohler and owner Walther Jacobs are among those to adopt Roberts's methods.

The Queen and the Queen Mother are big fans, too. Indeed it was the Royal Family who first invited him to England to work on several of their young racehorses.

To date he has started more than 145 winners including the dual Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Alleged. The Household Cavalry mounts are also started with his methods but, despite much of the British racing fraternity's scepticism, some call on Roberts as an equine psychotherapist when they encounter a difficult animal.

One such beast was Lomitas, a German-owned colt and a champion two-year-old before he started refusing races after developing a phobia about the starting stalls. In May 1991 he was banned "for life". On June 23 that year, after 10 days with Roberts, he went into the stalls like a lamb and won the race. Lomitas became a champion three-year-old and the highest-rated German racehorse ever.

But tradition dies hard. "I am still surrounded by scepticism," says Roberts"People look at me and think, 'Here's some jumped-up Californian telling [us] the way we've been doing things for a hundred years is wrong.' It's pride, it's machismo, it's tradition, it's all the things that hinder progress. All I'm saying is, 'Would you rather breed to a horse that ran and won because it wanted to or to a horse that ran and won because it was frightened?'

"But the general attitude is we'll do just fine on the methods we know and when we run into trouble we will call him. If they adopted my methods from the beginning they wouldn't have these problem children, I can assure you.

"The trainers say 10 per cent of horses are a problem. I'd say it's nearer 50 per cent. Thirty per cent are on the incorrigible list at the starting gate — not going in, kicking out, hurting people, messing about and delaying the race. Many are eliminated and sent home at an enormous cost."

Roberts, naturally, is against the whip and appalled by the ongoing rows about what constitutes "excessive" use. "It's more destructive than constructive because it causes many more accidents than it prevents. What confounds me is that no one can see how easy it would be to ban it completely. The best home would still be the best horse and the best rider."

So what is the secret of Roberts's whipless success? "I don't really see how you, as a woman, can ask me that," he says crossly.

"Imagine you are drinking in a bar and I come up and say, 'Okay, you're coming with me, I will make you do what I want because I am stronger than you.' How successful is that going to be? Okay, I can drag you out by the hair because I have the physical power but in the end what will I have achieved?

"Will you ever be as good to me if you are acting out a fear as if you were in a loving relationship with a man and were pleasing him because it was your choice to do so? It is the same with the horse."

Down at The George in Lambourn a couple of gnarled jockeys were sharing a few pints while mulling over their selections for the next day. They had heard of Monty Roberts and had even resorted to some of his methods with the odd troublesome horse. But as for starting the youngsters off with the 30-minute join-up, bridle-up, saddle-up, rider-up and building up a relationship of trust. . . . "Look, love," said one of them. "We get 13 or 14 new horses in a week. We haven't got time to muck about like that."

⊙ *Monty Roberts is currently touring the UK. For information call 01684 594800/594900. His book The Man Who Listens To Horses, newly on sale here, is published by Hutchinson, price £16.99.*

> 'I am still surrounded by scepticism. Would you rather breed to a horse that ran and won because it wanted to or to a horse that ran and won because it was frightened?'

Dazzle to repel French raider

Ken Oliver

DAZZLE, Michael Stoute's fleet-footed filly who has lived up to her name with two sparkling performances, puts her reputation on the line at Newmarket today in the Shadwell Stud Cheveley Park Stakes.

Her victories, at Royal Ascot and Newmarket, have elevated her to number one spot in the juvenile fillies' ratings and 4–1 market leader for next year's 1,000 Guineas — a price that will be drastically reduced if she completes the hat-trick with authority.

The main stumbling block could be Pas de Reponse, whose trainer, Criquette Head, won this group one race in 1987 with Ravinella, who went on to Guineas glory.

The French filly certainly impressed when winning the group three Prix d'Arenberg at Evry earlier this month when it was decided that a crack at Dazzle was next on the agenda.

Dazzle started her campaign at Royal Ascot in June when, after a slow start, she ran away with the Windsor Castle Stakes.

She followed up in the Cherry Hinton Stakes, over the six-furlong July Course at Newmarket, where she showed blistering speed to beat Ocean Ridge by five lengths. A performance that prompted the ante-post layers to make her hot favourite for the Guineas.

It is hard to imagine Ocean Ridge turning the tables and the best of the others appears to be Moonlight Paradise from the in-form Godolphin stable.

Moonlight Paradise has improved with each outing and with that man Dettori in the saddle she will have her supporters, but I take Dazzle to score from Pas de Response.

David Loder has a stable full of juvenile talent and could take the three two-year-old races with Abou Zouz, Rose Carnival (both to be ridden by Dettori) and Chivalric.

Abou Zouz (2.05) came back to form in the Gimcrack Stakes at York in August when beating Compton Place by half a length. Loder has always held him in high regard and he is napped to follow up in the Tattersalls Houghton Sales Stakes.

Rose Carnival (3.10) looks on a handy mark in the nursery, while Chivalric (4.20), an impressive runner-up to Harry Wolton at Yarmouth recently, may have the edge in the concluding maiden.

Newmarket runners and riders with form

1.30 Fitzwilliam
2.05 ABOU ZOUZ (nap)
2.35 Opulent (nb)
3.10 Rose Carnival
3.45 Dazzle
4.20 Chivalric

Dazzle No advantage. ★ Denotes blinkers. Going: Good to firm
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest outing

1.30 NGK SPARK PLUGS RATED HANDICAP 1m 4f £5,068

101 404000 **ROMEO (24) (CD)** C Brittain 5-9-7 ..... M Roberts 4
102 5145 **SMART PLAY (16) (D)** Mrs J Cecil 3-8-6 ..... J Reid 3
103 155 **MAIDEN CASTLE (16)** J Gosden 3-8-4 ..... L Dettori 2
104 432401 **SPELLO (18) (D)** L Cumani 3-8-3 ..... K Darley 1
105 121031 **DEAR LIRE (30) (D)** Mrs J Cecil 3-8-0 ..... Martin Dwyer (5) 6
106 71-0025 **BEYOND DOUBT (30) (D)** Lord Huntingdon 4-8-13 ..... D Harrison 7
107 3164 **FITZWILLIAM (24)** I Balding 3-8-8 ..... T Quinn 9
108 609-030 **VAUGHENEN (156) (D) (BF)** R Hannon 4-8-7 ..... Dane O'Neill 8
109 340221 **POLAR CHAMP (21)** S Woods 3-8-1 ..... D Biggs 5★
9 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Spello 8, Fitzwilliam 7, Smart Play 6
1995: Scolter Vale 3 7 13 W Carson 4–1 (S W Hills) 8 ran

Betting: 3–1 Spello, 9–2 Smart Play, 5–1 Beyond Doubt, Fitzwilliam, 6–1 Maiden Castle, 7–1 Dear Lirie.

FORM GUIDE - SPELLO: Effort 4f out, stayed on well to lead close home, beat Daunt 3l (Doncaster 1m 4f hcp, Gd-Fm).
SMART PLAY: Headway 4f out, soon chasing leaders, weakened over 1f out, 5th of 9, btn 10l, to Busy Flight (Doncaster 1m 4f, Gd-Fm).
BEYOND DOUBT: Held up, effort 4f out, soon weakened, 5th of 6, btn 37l, to Eva Luna (Doncaster 1m 6f 132yds, Gd).
FITZWILLIAM: Chased leaders, faded inside final furlong, 4th of 18, btn 13l, to Leading Spirit (Kempton 1m 4f hcp, Gd).
MAIDEN CASTLE: Effort over 4f out, weakened over 2f out, 5th of 6, btn 10l, to Forest Buck (Doncaster 1m 2f 60yds, Gd-Fm).
DEAR LIRE: Led 3f out, ran on well, beat Shining Dancer 3½ (Epsom 1m 4f hcp, Gd-Fm).

Channel 4

2.05 TATTERSALLS HOUGHTON SALES CONDITIONS STAKES 2YO 7f £23,810

201 121 **ABOU ZOUZ (41) (C) (D)** D Loder 9-0 ..... L Dettori 21
202 51 **RANDOMH (12) (D)** D Loder 9-0 ..... W R Swinburn 12
203 6 **GET THE POINT (40)** R Hollinshead 9-0 ..... W Ryan 11
204 22106 **DRAMATY'S PET (28)** P Cole 9-0 ..... J Quinn 7
205 4114 **GROOM'S GORDON (21) (D)** J Dunlop 9-0 ..... Pat Eddery 17
206 01 **MORE ALONE (17)** J Gosden 9-0 ..... R Havlin 13
207 404424 **MANKATO (13)** D Cosgrove 9-0 ..... M Hinnsor 22
208 13 **MUKADDAR (26)** C Brassard 9-0 ..... R Hills 14
209 045 **NOBLE INVESTMENT (13)** J Fanshawe 9-0 ..... R Cochrane 2
210 4112 **PAPGA (38) (D)** I Balding 9-0 ..... M J Kinane 18
211 132 **SANDSTONE (24) (D)** J Dunlop 9-0 ..... J Reid 9
212 65 **SHALAA (16)** E Dunlop 9-0 ..... S Whitworth 9
213 2 **SWISS LAW (40)** J FitzGerald 9-0 ..... K Fallon 22
214 23 **WOLF MOUNTAIN (73) (BF)** R Hannon 9-0 ..... R Hughes 4
215 6010 **ZIRKADI (26)** B Hanbury 9-0 ..... J Stack 19
216 1 **BLANK WATER (24)** J Fanshawe 8-9 ..... D Harrison 10
217 124 **BOOJUM (56)** B Hills 8-9 ..... M Hills 6
218 60565 **FRENCH MIST (14)** C Brittain 8-8 ..... K Darley 16
219 10030 **LYCELITY (36)** C Brittain 8-8 ..... S Doyle 5
220 ..... **MOONLIGHT HEIGHT** R Guest 8-8 ..... P Bloomfield 15
221 45135 **RAINDANCING (19)** R Hannon 8-8 ..... Dane O'Neill 3
222 215324 **ROCH IN LOVE (38)** C Cyzer 8-8 ..... M Roberts 20
223 ..... **TELLOFF** M Jarvis 8-8 ..... G Duffield 1
23 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Abou Zouz 9, Sandstone 7, Groom's Gordon 6
1995: Rio Duvida 2 6 3 L Dettori 5–1 (D Loder) 20 ran

Betting: 9–4 Abou Zouz, 6–1 Papga, 7–1 Sandstone, 8–1 Groom's Gordon, 10–1 Randomh, Rich In Love, 12–1 Granny's Pet.

FORM GUIDE - ABOU ZOUZ: Led close home, beat Compton Place ½l (York 5f, Gd).
PAPGA: Led to halfway, kept on well final furlong, btn ¾l by Alpha Plus (Deauville 7f, Gd-Sft).
SANDSTONE: Held up, headway over 1f out, unable to quicken near finish, btn a head by Besauge (Haydock 1m, Gd-Fm).
GROOM'S GORDON: Led or disputed lead until final furlong when 4th of 7, btn 3l, to Equal Rights (Curragh 1m, Gd).
RAINDANCING: Made all, ran on well, beat Lopez a head (Lingfield 7f 140yds, Fm).
ROCH IN LOVE: Led stands' side, kept on well final furlong, 4th of 20, btn 3l, to The Fly (Newcastle 1m rec, Gd).
TELLOFF'S PET: Held up, ridden over 1f out, unable to quicken, 4th of 5, btn 2½l, to Van Star (Sandown 5f, Gd-Fm).

2.35 SHADWELL STUD APPRENTICE SERIES FINAL (HANDICAP) 1m 2f £7,295

301 25-0006 **TANTE ASIX POSSES (18)** C Brittain 4-9-10 ..... J Quinlan (5) 9
302 536532 **VOLA VIA (30)** I Balding 3-9-7 ..... Martin Dwyer 7
303 6-0603 **MINAS GOLD (18)** S Dow 4-9-7 ..... A Daly 14
304 222-302 **STEP ALOFT (39) (BF)** Lord Huntingdon 4-9-6 ..... Almos Cook 5
305 400-211 **ZIRAK (144) (D)** P Makin 4-9-5 ..... R Havlin 1
306 6004-03 **OPULENT (13)** C Dwyer 5-9-3 ..... Jo Hunnam 13
307 14465 **CHEERFUL ASPECT (28)** E Dunlop 3-8-6 ..... P Roberts 2
308 447011 **WHITE PLAINS (12) (D)** M Bell 3-8-... ..... G Faulkner 3
309 0610 **TRICK (17) (D)** L Cumani 3-8-12 ..... A French (3) 10
310 21743 **DOUBLE WINGS (24)** S Woods 4-9-12 ..... M Henry 4
311 34343 **HARVEY WHITE (24) (D)** J Pearce 4-9-5 ..... P Doe (3) 11
312 33032 **SUPER HIGH (24)** P Haslam 4-... ..... M Baird 8★

313 000103 **PRINTERS QUILL (12) (D)** D Chappell 4-7-10 ..... Joss Wanda 12
314 620021 **DOUBLE ECHO (11) (D)** J Bethell 5-7-10 ..... P Fessey 5
14 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Vola Via 8, Harvey White 7, White Plains 6
1995: Gaasalaation 6 8 8 S Dawson 14–1 (J Pearce) 19 ran

Betting: 5–1 Opulent, 6–1 Harvey White, 6–1 Cheerful Aspect, White Plains, Vola Via, 10–1 Zirlac, Double Echo, Step Aloft.

FORM GUIDE - HARVEY WHITE: Led over 2f out, held on well, beat Fern's Governor short head (Kempton 1m 2f app hcp, Gd).
CHEERFUL ASPECT: Always in touch, headway 3f out, kept on well, 3rd of 11, btn 3l, to Wafir (Ripon 1m 2f hcp, Sft).
WHITE PLAINS: Led over 1f out, held on well, beat Elashath a neck (Lingfield 1m 2f app hcp, Gd).
VOLA VIA: Headway over 1f out, ran on well, btn a neck by Sharp Consul (Windsor 1m 2f app hcp, Gd).
ZIRAK: Led over 2f out, driven out, beat Mamzone 1¾l (Lingfield 1m 2f hcp, Gd-Fm).
DOUBLE ECHO: Led three out, beat Rising Spray a head (Newbury 1m 4f hcp, Gd-Fm).

3.10 EBFUND JERSEY LILY FILLIES' NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO 7f £19,088

401 141 **NIGHTBIRD (30)** B Hills 9-7 ..... M Hills 9
402 162 **NAKED POSER (20)** R Hannon 9-5 ..... Pat Eddery 3
403 2210 **CATECHISM (20) (BF)** J Gosden 9-3 ..... G Bind 10
404 34251 **BLUES QUEEN (10)** M Channon 9-3 ..... J Carroll 7
405 21235 **MISS HARRIER (22) (D) (BF)** J Dunlop 9-2 ..... K Darley 14
406 41 **TELEMANIA (15)** W Haggas 9-1 ..... K Fallon 6
407 01 **ROSE CARNIVAL (24) (D)** D Loder 8-11 ..... L Dettori 1
408 5316 **BRISKA (60) (D)** R Hannon 8-11 ..... Dane O'Neill 13
409 42155 **SONG MIST (30)** P Cole 8-10 ..... T Quinn 12
410 5221 **MADAME CHERNEVY (14) (D)** J Eustace 8-9 ..... R Cochrane 8
411 0029 **GEE WEE DREAM (20)** A Jarvis 8-8 ..... M J Kinane 4
412 153122 **TIPPERSHELL (10) (D)** W Muir 8-6 ..... J Reid 5★
413 232 **OUR WAY (13)** C Britain 8-5 ..... S Doyle 11
414 02321 **LADY GODIVA (27)** M Pelgram 8-2 ..... M Carlisle 2
14 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Chivalric 6, Dark Green 7
1995: Pacific Grove 2 8 1 A Whelan 12–1 (P Cole) 18 ran

Betting: 4–1 Naked Poser, 5–1 Nightbird, 7–1 Catechism, 8–1 Blues Queen, Song Mist, Rose Carnival, 10–1 Telemania, 12–1 Lady Godiva.

FORM GUIDE - NIGHTBIRD: 12-1 headway over 2f out, ran on well to lead post, won at Doncaster 8f 110y hcp(C) gd, beating NAKED POSER (rec 10lb) by a sh hd, SONG MIST (rec 9lb) 6th of 22, btn 2¾l, CATECHISM (gave 3lb) 7th of 22, btn 2¾l (Doncaster 8f 110yds hcp, Gd)
BLUES QUEEN: Led two out, beat Solero Boy 1½l (Ayr 6f hcp, Gd-Fm).
ROSE CARNIVAL: Led 1f out, ran on well, beat River Of Fortune 2l (Thirsk 7f auction, Gd-Fm).

Channel 4

3.45 SHADWELL STUD CHEVELEY PARK STAKES (Group 1) 2YO fillies 6f £69,309

501 12021 **ARETHUSA (24) (D)** R Hannon 8-11 ..... Dane O'Neill 2
502 412 **CARATI (28) (D)** R Boss 8-11 ..... G Duffield 6
503 11 **DAZZLE (24) (CD)** M Stoute 8-11 ..... K Fallon 4
504 112 **MOONLIGHT PARADISE (66) (CD)** Saeed bin Suroor 8-11 ..... L Dettori 6
505 1214 **OCEAN RIDGE (51) (D)** P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 ..... J Reid 9
506 131 **PAS DE REPONSE (21) (D)** Mrs C Head 8-11 ..... F Head 3
507 12451 **QUEEN SCEPTRE (11) (D)** B Hills 8-11 ..... Pat Eddery 7
508 55 **QUEEN'S PAGEANT (28)** J Spearing 8-11 ..... J Weaver 1
509 02133 **SNAP CRACKLE POP (12)** R Johnson Houghton 8-11 ..... A McGlone 5
9 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Dazzle 10, Pas De Reponse 8, Moonlight Paradise 7
1995: Blue Duster 8 11 M J Kinane 4–5 (D Loder) 5 ran

Betting: 4–6 Dazzle, 4–1 Pas De Reponse, 5–1 Moonlight Paradise, 8–1 Ocean Ridge, 10–1 Arethusa, Queen Sceptre.

FORM GUIDE - DAZZLE: Rear early, headway to lead 2f out, ran on strongly, beat OCEAN RIDGE (level) by ¾ (Newmarket 6f, Gd)
PAS DE REPONSE: led until two out, came again, beat Heavens Command by 1¾l (Evry 8f 110yds, Gd).
OCEAN RIDGE: Led two out until final furlong, 4th of 9, btn 2¾l, to Mantovani (Leopardstown 6f, Gd-Sft)
MOONLIGHT PARADISE: Led final furlong until close home, btn short head by Saebe (Ascot 6f, Gd-Fm).
ARETHUSA: Led inside final furlong, beat Maserati Monk a neck (Kempton 6f, Gd).
QUEEN SCEPTRE: Led over one furlong out, beat Head Over Heels by 2l (Ayr 6f, Gd-Fm).

4.20 EBFUND EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN STAKES 2YO colts & geldings 1m £5,827

601 **ASAS** Saeed bin Suroor 8-11 ..... R Hills 10
602 **CATCRAIGLE** H Cecil 8-11 ..... Pat Eddery 8
603 2 **CHIVALRIC (12)** D Loder 8-11 ..... W R Swinburn 5
604 3 **DARK GREEN (67) (BF)** P Cole 8-11 ..... T Quinn 6
605 **DESERT HORIZON** J Gosden 8-11 ..... L Dettori 2
606 0 **DOUBLE-E-I-S-A (13)** C Allen 8-11 ..... Martin Dwyer (5) 9
607 **HARK** S Horbury 8-11 ..... J Stack 11
608 6 **INCLUDE ME OUT (12)** J Fanshawe 8-11 ..... R Day 4
609 2 **JAUNTY JACK (24)** L Cumani 8-11 ..... W Ryan 3
610 **MICHAEL VENTURE** S Woods 8-11 ..... M J Kinane 12
611 **PERCY ISLE** M Stoute 8-11 ..... J Reid 7
612 **ROYAL CROWN** P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 ..... J Reid 7
12 runners

TOP FORM TIPS: Chivalric 8, Dark Green 7
1995: Hellson 8 11 M J Kinane 7–1 (H Cecil) 20 ran

Betting: 9–4 Chivalric, 11–4 Catcraigle, 5–1 Desert Horizon, 5–1 Percy Isle, 8–1 Dark Green, Asas, 10–1 Royal Crown

FORM GUIDE - CHIVALRIC: Led over 2f out, held final furlong, beaten 1¾l by Harry Wolton (Yarmouth 7f, Gd-Fm)
DARK GREEN: Led over two out, kept on well, beaten ¾l by Grecian Sandpiper (Yarmouth 7f, Gd-Sft)
JAUNTY JACK: Ran on well, beat Mr Bell 1¾l (Ayr 6f, Sft).
INCLUDE ME OUT: Chased leaders over 2f out, ran on well to lead ins fnl, beaten ¾l by Hugh Roller (Yarmouth 7m, Gd-Fm)

Sedgefield (N.H.)

2.20 Rushen Raider
2.50 Stags Fell
3.25 Unor
3.55 Notable Exception
4.30 Red Valerian
5.00 Canton Venture

★ Denotes blinkers. Going: Good to firm
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since latest outing

2.20 STANLEY RACING GOLDEN NUGGETS SERIES NOVICES' HURDLE 2m 5f 110yds £2,283

1 0P6P-1 **DANNY GALE (17)** G McCourt 5–11–5 ..... G Bradley
2 00P-0 **KANOMA (28)** Mrs A Swinbank 5–10–12 ..... J Supple
3 0483P4-0 **PAPA'S BOY (118)** J Howard Johnson 5–10–12 ..... S Taylor (5)
4 456–0 **RULE OUT THE REST (28)** Sarah Horner–Harker 5–10–12 ..... A Thornton
5 5 **RUSHEN RAIDER (6) (BF)** K Hogg 4–10–11 ..... M Foster
6 0000Y-4R **TIGH–NA–MARA (25)** J Jefferson 8–10–7 ..... M Dwyer
6 runners

No corresponding race

Betting: 5–4 Rushen Raider, 2–1 Danny Gale, 9–2 Tigh–Na–Mara, 8–1 Papa's Boy, 12–1 Rule Out The Rest, 50–1 Kanoma.

2.50 SATLEY PUNCH BOWL CLAIMING HURDLE 2m 1f £2,443

1 20P033- **NOMOS (129)** G Moore 5–11–12 ..... J Callaghan
2 303–422 **HERRESTHEDEAL (17)** G McCourt 7–11–0 ..... R Dickens (7) ★
3 364505- **ELLTEE–ESS (127)** P Weaver 11–10–11 ..... C R Weaver (7)
4 0 **SHUTTLECOCK (11)** Mrs N Macauley 5–10–11 ..... A Maguire
5 46000–2 **STAGS FELL (10) (CD)** T Cuthbert 11–10–5 ..... Carol Cuthbert
6 0001–05 **CLOVER GIRL (17) (D)** B Ellison 5–10–2 ..... G Cahill (5) ★
7 50303/–3 **RED MARCH HARE (38)** D Morton 5–10–6 ..... D J Moffatt
8 0301–P5 **CANDID LAD (33) (CD)** F Storey 9–10–5 ..... B Storey
8 runners

1995: Nocatchim 6 11 2 A S Smith 13–8 (K Morgan) 13 ran

Betting: 9–4 Herresthedeal, 11–4 Nomos, 5–1 Red March Hare, 7–1 Stags Fell, 8–1 Shuttlecock, 9–1 Clover Girl

3.25 LAZENBY AND WILSON HANDICAP CHASE 2m 5f £3,418

1 1312–F6 **CROSS CANNON (109) (CD)** J Wade 10–12–0 ..... T Reed
2 013121–1 **UNOR (116)** P Monteith 10–11–7 ..... A Dobbin
3 42121P **MAGIC BLOOM (17) (CD) (BF)** J Jefferson 10–11–0 ..... R Guest
4 P43031 **THE BLUE BOY (10) (D)** P Bowen 8–11–0 ..... A P McCoy ★
5 5U54U–5 **CHARMING GALE (116)** Mrs S Bradburne 9–10–4 ..... A Maguire ★
6 463–014 **TURPIN'S GREEN (20) (CD)** J King 13–10–0 ..... J Culloty
6 runners

1995: Pats Minstrel 10 11 2 M A Fitzgerald 13–8 (R Champion) 3 ran

Betting: 7–4 Unor, 5–2 Magic Bloom, 4–1 The Blue Boy, 5–1 Cross Cannon, 12–1 Charming Gale, 16–1 Turpin's Green.

3.55 SPITFIRE NOVICES' CHASE 2m 5f £2,877

1 02643–1 **NOTABLE EXCEPTION (80)** Mrs M Reveley 7–11–5 ..... P Niven
2 4302P–1 **VAL DE RAMA (25) (CD)** Denys Smith 7–11–5 ..... B Storey
3 FP/PP0–3 **CARDINAL SINNER (25)** J Wade 7–10–12 ..... K Jones
4 300/2P–8 **GOLDEN SAVANNAH (115)** M Sowersby 6–10–12 ..... D Parker (3)
5 050/–F **RAPID FIRE (24)** J Jefferson 8–10–12 ..... M Dwyer
6 P80–P **ISLANDREAGH (22)** G Richards 5–10–5 ..... A Dobbin
6 runners

1995: Oakley 6 11 7 B Storey 5–4 (Denys Smith) 7 ran

Betting: 5–4 Notable Exception, 11–4 Rapid Fire, 4–1 Val de Rama, 5–1 Islandreagh, 14–1 Cardinal Sinner, 16–1 Golden Savannah.

4.30 KIER NORTH EAST HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 5f 110yds £2,793

1 153–213 **RED VALERIAN (17) (CD)** G Moore 5–12–0 ..... Michael Brennan (5) ★
2 14–1F23 **TOUGH TEST (5) (BF)** Mrs J Goodfellow 8–10–10 ..... G Cahill (3)
3 422253– **SCARIBA (127)** J Jefferson 8–10–4 ..... M Newton (7)
4 2F–F1P3 **FRONTIER FLIGHT (10)** Miss L Siddall 5–10–1 ..... E Husband (3)
5 2001–12 **SUPERHOO (30) (C)** R Craggs 5–10–1 ..... S Foster
6 4–0244 **FLINTLOCK (6)** H Alexander 6–10–0 ..... R McGrath (5)
6 runners

1995: Kinsha 7 11 0 M A Fitzgerald 4–1 (K W Hogg) 6 ran

Betting: 13–8 Red Valerian, 7–2 Scariba, 4–1 Superhoo, 5–1 Tough Test, 7–1 Frontier Flight, 12–1 Flintlock.

5.00 HURRICANE NOVICES' HURDLE 2m 1f £2,903

1 253–312 **SHAS LEAT (17) (CD) (BF)** J Jefferson 8–11–5 ..... M Newton (7)
2 **CANTON VENTURE** S Woods 4–10–11 ..... P Niven
3 34555–P **COURT JOKER (6)** H Alexander 4–10–11 ..... P Waggott
4 SP5– **SALKELD KING (139)** M Barnes 4–10–11 ..... P Maggott
5 **TOP SKIPPER** Mamyra Wane 4–10–11 ..... A S Smith
6 58 **ROSE CHIME (18)** J L Harris 4–10–6 ..... P McLoughlin
6 runners

No corresponding race

Betting: 10–11 Canton Venture, 7–4 Shas Leat, 10–1 Rose Chime, 12–1 Top Skipper, 16–1 Court Joker, 20–1 Salkeld King

● There are no horses blinkered today for the first time.

Pipe in no hurry to find Bridgwater replacement

MARTIN PIPE is in no hurry to choose a replacement for David Bridgwater, who has quit his job as the champion jump trainer's retained jockey.

Pipe said yesterday that Bridgwater's decision to go freelance came as a "total shock" and now plans to offer rides to the defending champion jockey Tony McCoy as well as using Chris Maude, who had been acting as the yard's back-up to Bridgwater.

He is in no hurry to find a replacement. "When and if it does arise that we get someone else we'll let everyone know," he said.

"There's no rush to get anyone else as the majority of my better horses won't be running until we get the softer ground in November. If the likes of McCoy are available for Exeter and Taunton this week we'll use them."

Pipe suggested Bridgwater's split has handed the jump jockeys' championship 'on a plate' to McCoy. "Tony McCoy should be very pleased," he commented.

The Nicholshayne trainer said Bridgwater's decision to sever a partnership which brought him 111 winners from 428 rides was a total surprise. "He phoned me at 5.45 on Sunday evening and that was the first I'd heard of it," said Pipe.

Frankie Dettori fever hit Bath yesterday where the Italian rider, who rode all seven winners at Ascot on Saturday, could manage just one win in the opening event on the Queen's Sabina, leaving him one win short of his century for the season.

Crowds of racegoers besieged the weighing room hoping for a glimpse of their hero and a chance of obtaining his autograph.

● Yeast is unlikely to run in the Tote Cambridgeshire at Newmarket on Saturday. William Haggas, the gelding's trainer, said: "He will probably go for a Listed race at Newmarket on Thursday."

Results

BATH

2.00 (5f 161yds): 1, SABINA, L Dettori (7–4 fav); **2, Tigrella** (4–1); **3, Just Nick** (15–2). 12 ran. 1¾, 1¾. (I Balding) Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £1.60, £1.90. Dual F £8.50. CSF: £9.54. Trio: £17.10 NR Am Seven, Ma Vielle Pouque.

2.30 (2m 1f): 1, NUZU, M Hills (7–1); **2, Inchcolloch** (7–1); **3, Jebil** (50–1). 2–1 fav Blaze Away 12 ran. 4, 7. (B Hills) Tote: £9.60; £2.60 £1.70. £10.30. Dual F: £31.20. CSF: £52.72. Tricast: £2,097.84.

3.00 (1m 2f): 1, ELDORADO, J Reid (11–2); **2, Slip The Net** (2–7 fav); **3, Drive Assured** (13–2). 6 ran. 2¾, 13. (M Johnston) T: £5.80, £2.80, £1.10 DF: £1.90 CSF: £7.43. **3.30 (1m 2f): 1, PASTERNAK,** S Sanders (9–2); **2, King Keto** (4–1); **3, Medlea** (9–4 fav). 10 ran. Sh hd, 10. (M Prescott) Tote: £6.90; £1.90, £1.90, £1.30 Dual F: £17.40. CSF: £22.95 Trio: £24.90. NR: Lady Joshua.

4.00 (1m): 1, ALI–ROYAL, Pat Eddery (11–10 fav). **2, Nijo** (7–2); **3, Story Line** (13–2). 6 ran. 12, 3¾. (H Cecil) Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £2.00. Dual F £3.00. CSF: £5.15.

4.30 (1m): 1, SHOULDBEGREY, Amanda Sanders (13–2). **2, Jilly Beveled** (9–1); **3, Scimitar** (20–1); **4, One In The Eye** (33–1). 9–2 fav Diebedale. 17 ran. 1¾, 1. (W Muir) Tote: £10.30; £1.30, £1.90, £5.80. Dual F: £38.60. Trio: £416.10. CSF: £61.77 Tricast: £1,025.93. NR: Iona Holley.

QUADPOT: £8.60 **PLACEPOT:** £180.50.
JACKPOT: £7,333.50.

HAMILTON

2.15 (1m 65yds): 1, HINDSIGHT, K Fallon (2–5 fav); **2, Lightning Rebel** (16–1); **3, Moorbird** (14–1). 6 ran. 2, 7. (W Haggas) Tote: £1.40, £1.10 £4.70. Dual F: £5.60 CSF: £6.77.

2.45 (1m 65yds): 1, CAJUN SUNSET, K Darley (11–2). **2, Presentitsnot** (10–1); **3, Lewisbuoy** (5–2 fav). 7 ran. 1¼, 1¾. (T Easterby) Tote: £4.90; £3.00, £3.00. Dual F: £13.30. CSF: £46.82.

3.15 (1m 4f): 1, AYUNLI, J Tate (7–2 jt fav); **2, Sobs Up** (16–1); **3, Ess de Cologne** (7–1). 7–2 jt fav Mantalasanyhin. 14 ran. 5, 3. (S Williams) Tote: £4.70; £2.70, £4.50, £3.50. Dual F: £15.50. CSF: £54.59. Tricast: £352.51. Trio: £76.50

3.45 (1m 3f): 1, MANFUL, N Kennedy (7–2); **2, Askern** (13–8 fav); **3, Ars of The River** (6–1). 10 ran. 5, 1¾. (W Elsey) Tote: £5.70; £1.30, £1.80, £1.50. Dual F: £7.70. CSF: £8.53. Trio: £18.60.

4.15 (5f): 1, MIDNIGHT BLUE, J Weaver (15–2); **2, King of Peru** (7–1); **3, King of The East** (4–1). 7–2 fav Esperiero. 10 ran. 1¾, hd. (W Jarvis) Tote: £5.30; £1.80, £2.80, £1.60. Dual F: £16.80. Trio: £41.40. CSF: £56.83. NR: Six For Luck.

4.45 (6f): 1, BATALEUR, C Scudder (20–1); **2, Desert Invader** (16–1); **3, Magic Lake** (10–1). **4, Disco Boy** (14–1). 5–1 fav Craigle Boy. 18 ran. Sh hd, 2. (Miss J Bower) Tote: £38.30; £4.40, £4.40, £5.10, £4.30. Dual F: £237.80. Trio: £921.40. CSF: £297.30. Tricast: £3,194.88.

QUADPOT: £116.30. **PLACEPOT:** £443.30.

RACELINE
0930 168+
COMMENTARY RESULTS
NEWMARKET 101 201
SEDGEFIELD 102 202

Soccer

Lee set for takeover meeting

Ian Ross

THE Manchester City chairman Francis Lee, whose managerless, debt-ridden and troubled club still seems able to attract would-be investors, is expected to meet the head of one interested consortium — Mark Guterman, the chairman of the Third Division club Chester City — within the next 24 hours.

Guterman wants to discuss injecting a reported £60 million into the First Division club, which boasts debts of more than £20 million.

Lee's fruitless search for a managerial successor to Alan Ball — the Everton No. 2 Willie Donachie yesterday became the latest refusenik — has been put on hold as the prospect of City again becoming embroiled in a takeover battle looms large, with two consortiums involved.

"I am willing to go and see him [Guterman]," Lee said. "If this is a genuine interest, let's try and get him on board. It is no secret that we have spent a few weeks trying to get the right sort of investor into this club."

The second interested party is London-based and, seemingly, intent on injecting money into Maine Road rather than launching a takeover which would, presumably, see Lee ousted.

It is believed that in exchange for £15 million they would require seats on the board, changes in the backroom operation and the installation of the former England winger Chris Waddle as the club's new manager.

"It shows that the club is a very attractive proposition for people to invest in," Lee said. "It just shows, from being a so-called worn-out club, we are attractive to businessmen."

● The Football Association's chief executive Graham Kelly was unable to resolve Brighton's problems in a four-hour meeting after the Third Division club's chairman and majority shareholder Bill Archer, who wants to stay at the club, and members of a takeover consortium, led by the millionaire Dick Knight, who want him to go, were summoned to Lancaster Gate. The FA has become concerned that Brighton have not found an alternative to their Goldstone Ground which they must leave in May after selling it for development. Both gave evidence at the meeting but Kelly emerged to say that no solution had been found.

Chunnel vision . . . Pounewatchy went to Brunton Park on a free transfer but was valued at £500,000 when he left Gueugnon MICHAEL STEELE

French for a culture shock

Michael Walker meets the Carlisle defender Pounewatchy who thought Third Division life was great until the round trip to Torquay

THREE HUNDRED and sixty miles is a long way to go to watch a football match. Furthermore it is a trip fraught with risk. See your team win and the exercise can be justified to even the most puzzled of non-believers. Witness a defeat, however, and the questions do not come from others but from within — and there are 360 miles back.

Fortunately for the 300 or so Carlisle United fans who set off at 6am on Saturday bound for Torquay the journey home was not full of internal queries on the limits of sanity.

Carlisle won 2-1, stayed second in the Third Division behind Fulham and vindicated viewing the 720-mile round trip as a sign of passion rather than madness. Further reward may come tonight: if Carlisle beat Rochdale and Fulham fail to beat Torquay the Cumbrians will go top. A draw might even be enough to put Mervyn Day's side in pole position because Carlisle have a better goal difference due to the second meanest defence in the Division.

That record was at the forefront of Day's thoughts yesterday as two of those responsible for it were limping, not strutting, around the corridors of Brunton Park.

In between visits to the osteopath — Day ricked his back on the coach to Torquay — the Carlisle manager of eight months explained that the teenager Will Varty had picked up an Achilles injury on the south coast and Stéphane Pounewatchy had been kicked in training yesterday morning. Varty's six-week lay-off is a problem but the absence of Pounewatchy is a crisis because the Frenchman has been outstanding since his unlikely arrival in Cumbria two months ago.

The post-Bosman era has been marked by exotic transfers and there are about 120 foreigners playing outside the Premiership alone. That, according to the Football League, is an increase of roughly 40 per cent over 12 months, a situation some within the game find disturbing.

Day has some sympathy with that argument but not in the case of his Frenchman. "If they are just brought over as cannon fodder and as an alternative to paying transfer fees, then I disagree," he said.

"But if they are good players like Stéphane, and good role models, then it is not a bad thing. If I could find four or five with Stéphane's qualities and demeanour, then I would have them."

Consequently foreign agents play an increasingly important role in the life of an English manager and Day and his boisterous chairman Michael Knighton had to go via one of them to get Pounewatchy. Tipped off that he was on trial at Southend, they got him up to Carlisle, saw three minutes of him play in a friendly against Kilmarnock and decided they had seen enough.

There was no transfer fee of course but, as Pounewatchy's valuation between French clubs was around £500,000, there are serious wages involved. The big-amiable 28-year-old has sad eyes but he seems happy with the money.

He is also enjoying his football and playing in a new atmosphere. "Bastia want me to sign and now they are second in the French League but I wanted a different experience and I wanted to play in England," he said in useful English.

Reggiana, promoted to Serie A, also voiced an interest when Pounewatchy's two-year contract with Gueugnon expired at the end of last season. One point below Lille, Gueugnon were relegated along with St Etienne and Martigues, where Pounewatchy had previously been captain for four years. The Parisian had started at Racing Club of Paris as a schoolboy but at 19 gave up football at his father's behest to go back to college for two years to qualify as an economist.

It is not something he regrets but it may have hindered his chances of a France cap, a missing asset that has implications for him now. "I know it is difficult if you are not an international because you don't get picked up immediately.

"It was hard to me to accept the drop in standards but it's okay, it's different. We are second in the table and the more I play the better I get and the more people know me."

Pounewatchy likes the stadium, his team-mates and the staff at Carlisle. The one thing, he said, that has been a culture shock was the bus trip to Torquay.

Pleat to address referee seminar

THE Football Association, recognising that relations between managers and referees have sunk to an all-time low, yesterday took a practical step toward easing the strain. League referees are holding a seminar in the Midlands next weekend and the FA has asked Sheffield Wednesday's manager David Pleat to address them on the growing gulf between bench and pitch.

John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers' Association, has also been asked to attend and to bring at least one other prominent manager to air the problems.

"It's a forum for the managers to get their feelings across," said an FA spokesman," and no doubt they will seize the opportunity. No fewer than four managers have been placed on disrepute charges this season, and Sunderland's Peter Reid seems about to join them.

The record spate of yellow cards issued this season has led to increasingly vocal touchlines protests about inflexible and inconsistent refereeing. Dismissals are running at their usual level — a dozen in 79 games — but cautions have already reached 291, an average of almost 3.7 per game. This is a significant increase on, for example, the 1.3 average for the 1993-94 Premiership season.

Certain referees, notably Blaby's Paul Danson and the newcomer Michael Riley of Leeds, figure prominently in the controversy. When Danson sent off Sunderland's Martin Scott and Paul Stewart in Saturday's game at Arsenal he took his tally to 22 cautions and three dismissals in five games. Reid's touchline protests saw him banished to the stands to await an inevitable summons to Lancaster Gate.

In August Danson reported Coventry's managerial pair Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan after more harsh words at Chelsea, where they alleged that he failed to spot a clear handball before the first home goal in City's 2-0 defeat.

Riley's first week on the Premiership list saw both Southampton's Graeme Sonness and Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson reported. Riley booked nine players and sent off Middlesbrough's Nigel Pearson in the 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest, whose manager Frank Clark could not remember a bad tackle in the game. Robson described the handling of the game as "farcical".

Riley has issued 21 cautions and two dismissals in his four games. Another Premiership newcomer, Warwick's Graham Barber, has averaged more than six yellow cards in each of his four games.

Smith's exit could usher in Wilkins

RAY WILKINS could be a leading contender for the manager's job at Wycombe which became vacant yesterday following Alan Smith's departure from the Second Division club.

Wilkins made a single appearance at Adams Park last month after being sacked by Queens Park Rangers — he played in the 1-0 home defeat by Luton Town — before departing to Hibernian.

Smith, the eighth managerial casualty in England this season, and his assistant David Kemp paid the price for Wanderers' poor start to the season which saw them drop to the foot of the table on Saturday, without a win in nine games, when they lost 6-3 to Peterborough.

The former Crystal Palace manager had been the target of a vociferous group of Wycombe fans and Kemp said Smith had "never really been accepted by the fans and that has made life extremely difficult".

Wycombe's chairman Ivor Beeks pleaded with the fans to get behind Neil Smillie, the youth coach appointed as caretaker-manager, and his assistant, the first-team captain Terry Evans.

"I hope the fans give Neil and Terry their full support," said Beeks, "beginning against Rotherham [tonight], and give the team a rousing welcome when they step out from the tunnel."

Beeks said Smith's departure had been "amicable" and added: "I have found Alan to have always behaved in a professional manner and it is sad to see him go. But results in the last nine games have brought us to this position. However, we are not going to be rushed into a quick appointment, although the job will be advertised."

Smith, who was at Wycombe for 15 months after spending two years at Crystal Palace before being sacked, said: "If you look at the results, they have not been good enough and, although I do not wish to discuss the reasons now, that has to figure at the top of the list."

Miller follows fans' early exit and walks out on Hibernian

Patrick Glenn

ALEX MILLER yesterday became the third Scottish Premier Division manager to lose his job this season when he resigned his job with Hibernian. Unlike the other two, Jimmy Thomson of Raith Rovers and Billy Kirkwood of Dundee United, Miller chose to walk.

Miller had been regularly harangued by supporters in recent months as the once formidable Easter Road club continued to decline. His position evidently became untenable at the weekend when Hibs lost 3-1 at home to Hearts in the Edinburgh derby.

The team went 3-0 behind before the interval and some fans were already leaving the ground before the second half. The Hibernian chairman Douglas Cromb yesterday accepted the resignation of Miller, who is understood to have 20 months of his contract remaining.

Miller spent 10 years at Easter Road and, the chairman revealed, refused jobs abroad at the time the club was on the brink of closure a few years ago. "He stood by the club in the darkest days," said Cromb, "and even went on to win the League Cup that year, 1991."

Cromb is anxious to find a quick replacement and will almost certainly look for another Scot. He has noted that other Scottish clubs have tried "foreign" managers, including Englishmen, and it has not worked out.

"It's a big task for us," added Cromb, "because we want a quality man and there are not many to choose from."

Insistence on a Scot would rule out Ray Wilkins, the former QPR player-manager who is currently on a month's contract at Easter Road.

Hibernian have little spare money and will be looking for a man not bound to another club by contract. That could open the door for Alex Smith, formerly of Aberdeen and most recently Clyde, or Steve Archibald, who left East Fife two weeks ago.

The assistant manager Jocky Scott takes over in the interim.

Wright makes peace with Pleat over remark

IAN WRIGHT has apologised to David Pleat for comments made in a national newspaper when he was reported as calling the Sheffield Wednesday manager "a pervert".

The Arsenal striker's remarks came after Pleat had reported him to the FA over two incidents in the match at Highbury after TV footage showed Wright pulling the dreadlocks of the Dutch midfielder Regi Blinker and stamping on the Yugoslav defender Dejan Stefanovic. The FA has written to Wright about the comments.

But on Sky television Wright said: "It was just a joke" and added: "It was said in a jovial manner at the end of a very long day. People were firing all sorts of questions and I didn't think it would be published. It was not meant to offend anyone and I can't apologise enough. I have spoken to David Pleat and I'm very pleased that he accepted my apology."

Aston Villa's chairman Doug Ellis has intervened in the dispute between Paul McGrath and the Coca-Cola Cup holders, urging the player to stay at the club and fight to regain his first-team place.

McGrath, who has put in a written transfer request, was left out of the squad for last night's game at Newcastle following a row with Brian Little. The Villa manager accused the player of suggesting that the club were trying to prevent him moving after Coventry decided not to pursue their interest on discovering the asking price was £200,000.

"I think the world of Paul and don't want him to leave," Ellis said. "I would just simply ask him to be patient and work hard to get back into the side."

Southampton yesterday signed the Norwegian international striker Egil Ostenstad from Viking Stavanger in a £900,000 deal.

Teamtalk
The independent news and reports service
0891 33 77+

Arsenal	06	Ipswich Town	19	Sheffield United	15
Aston Villa	11	Leeds United	03	Sheffield Wed.	14
Birm. City	34	Leicester City	35	Southhampton	20
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30
Bolton	38	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27
Brentford	24	Man. United	01	Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	31	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	08	Millwall	29	Wimbledon	28
Coventry City	17	Newcastle Utd	16	Wolves	37
Derby County	28	Norwich City	18	Celtic	09
Everton	05	Nottm. Forest	13	Rangers	10
Hudd. Town	32	QPR	25		

CALLS COST 39p/MIN CHEAP RATE, 49p/MIN AT ALL OTHER TIMES.
SUPPLIED BY: BIS, 15 MARK LANE, LEEDS LS1 6LB HELPLINE 0171 713 4473
The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Results

Soccer

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Cup: Charlton 8, Millwall 0.
FRIENDLY: West Ham 0, Kuwait XI 0.

Golf

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: Leading positions: 1, G Norman (Aus) 10.30pts; 2, E Els (SA) 8.85; 3, C Montgomerie (Scot) 8.78; 4, N Faldo (Eng) 8.72; 5, T Lehman (US) 8.47; 6, F Couples (US) 8.33; 7, M Ozaki (Japan) 8.29; 8, C Pavin (US) 8.16; 9, P Mickelson (US) 7.70; 10, M O'Meara (US) 6.84; 11, D Love III (US) 6.72; 12, S Elkington (Aus) 6.55; 13, N Price (Zim) 6.20; 14, B Langer (Ger) 6.00; 15, S Stricker (US) 5.55; 16, L Roberts (US) 5.48; 17, D Duval (US) 5.35; 18, M McCumber (US) 5.04; 19, S Hoch (US) 5.18; 20, V Singh (Fiji) 5.16. Other GB: 24, I Woosnam (Wales) 4.59; 41, S Torrance (Scot) 3.41, 64, B Lane (Eng) 2.39; 68, A Cotter (Scot) 2.25; 86, D Clarke (NI) 1.88; 93, L Westwood (Eng) 1.76; 96, P McGinley (Ire) 1.73.

Tennis

SINGAPORE OPEN: First round: T Johansson (Swe) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; J Stark (US) bt J-P Fleurian (Fr) 5-7, 6-3, 6-3; A Olhovskiy (Rus) bt T Srichaphan (Thai) 6-2, 6-0; G Stafford (SA) bt M Damm (Cz) 7-6, 6-0; G Raoux (Fr) bt N Godwin (SA) 6-3, 6-3; P Rafter (Aus) bt S Masuoka (Japan) 6-4, 6-2; S Schalken (Neth) bt M Wilander (Swe) 6-2, 6-2
LYON GRAND PRIX: First round: M Tillstrom (Swe) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 6-4, 6-7, 7-6; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt R Ranseberg (US) 7-5, 6-2
LEADING ATP RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 4,740pts, 2, M Chang (US) 4,010; 3, T Muster (Aut) 3,612; 4, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 3,181; 5, Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 3,091; 6, W Ferreira (SA) 2,701; 7, B Becker (Ger) 2,666; 8, R Krajicek (Neth) 2,434; 9, A Agassi (US) 2,292; 10, M Rios (Chile) 2,101; 11, M Washington (US) 1,891; 12, T Martin (US) 1,805; 13, T Enqvist (Swe) 1,786; 14, J Courier (US) 1,780; 15, A Costa (Sp) 1,758, 16, F Mantilla (Sp) 1,576; 17, C Pioline (Fr) 1,557; 18, A Berasategui (Sp) 1,479; 19, M Philippoussis (Aus) 1,448; 20, S Enberg (Swe) 1,430.
SPARKASSEN CUP WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX (Leipzig): First round: S Appelmans (Bel) bt G Pizzichini (It) 6-2, 6-2; N Sukova (Cz) bt A Gaelle Sidot (Fr) 7-5, 6-3; K Po (US) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3; K Habsudova (Slovak) bt E Likhovtseva (Rus) 6-1, 6-1; R Dragomir (Rom) bt S Talaja (Cro) 6-1, 6-2.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 8, New York 5; Toronto 4, Baltimore 1; Detroit 5, Milwaukee 7 (in 10); Minnesota 5, Chicago 4 (in 10); Kansas City 4, Cleveland 1; Texas 4, California 3; Oakland 3, Seattle 1. Final leading standings: Eastern Division: †New York (W92, L70, Pct.568; GB0); 2, †Baltimore (88-74-.543-4), 3, Boston (85-77-.525-7). Central Division: 1, †Cleveland (99-62-.615-0); 2, Chicago (85-77-.525-14G); 3, Milwaukee (80-82-.494-19). Western Division: 1, †Texas (90-72-.556-0); 2, Seattle (85-76-.528-4); 3, Oakland (78-84-.481-12). (*=Clinched Division Title; †=Clinched wild card berth).
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreal 8, Atlanta 3; New York 5, Philadelphia 0; St Louis 3, Cincinnati 6, Chicago 3, Pittsburgh 6; Houston 5, Florida 4 (in 10), Colorado 12, San Francisco 3; Los Angeles 0, San Diego 2 (in 11). Final leading standings: Eastern Division: 1, *Atlanta (W96, L66, Pct.593, GB0); 2, Montreal (88-74-.543-8); 3, Florida (80-82-.494-16). Central Division: 1, *St Louis (88-74-.543-0); 2, Houston (82-80-.506-6); 3, Cincinnati (81-81-.500-7); 3, Chicago (76-86-.469-12). Western Division: 1, *San Diego (91-71-.562-0); 2, †Los Angeles (90-72-.556-1); 3, Colorado (83-79-.512-8). (*=Clinched Division Title; †=Clinched wild card berth)

Chess

32ND OLYMPIAD (Erevan). Round 12: Israel 1½, Russia 2½; Bulgaria 1½, United States 2½; Uzbekistan 1, Ukraine 3; England 2, (Short ½, Adams ½, Speelman 0, Sadler 1), China 2; Armenia 2½, Bosnia 1½; Spain 2, Croatia 2; Scotland 1, Kirgyzstan 3; Ireland 1, Venezuela 3; Wales 2, Egypt 3½. Leaders: Russia 33½, Ukraine 30½; United States 30; Israel, Bulgaria, Armenia, England, Croatia 29. Also: Scotland 23½; Ireland 22; Wales 21. Women: Round 12: Slovakia 3, England 2½ (Lalic 1, Hunt 1, Sheldon ½). Leaders: Georgia 26½; Russia, China 24, Ukraine, England 23½; Israel, Hungary, Romania 22.

American Football

NFL: Baltimore 17, New Orleans 10; Chicago 19, Oakland 17; Cincinnati 10, Denver 14; Jacksonville 24, Carolina 14; NY Giants 15, Minnesota 10; Pittsburgh 30, Houston 18; Tampa Bay 0, Detroit 27; Arizona 31, St Louis 28 (ot); San Diego 22, Kansas City 19; Seattle 10, Green Bay 31; San Francisco 39, Atlanta 17; Washington 31, NY Jets 16. Leading standings: American Conference: Eastern Division: 1, Indianapolis (W4, L0 PF76, PA50); 2, Miami (3-1-104-57); 3, Buffalo (3-1-56-61). Central Division: 1, Pittsburgh (3-1-94-63); 2, Baltimore (2-2-66-84); 3, Houston (2-2-98-90). Western Division: 1, Denver (4-1-118-78); 2, Kansas City (4-1-110-75); 3, San Diego (4-1-128-116). National Conference: Eastern Division: 1, Washington (4-1-103-56); 2, Philadelphia (3-1-87-68); 3, Arizona (2-3-82-131). Central Division: 1, Green Bay (4-1-167-66); 2, Minnesota (4-1-100-90); 3, Detroit (3-2-113-63). Western Division: 1, San Francisco (3-1-107-51), 2, Carolina (3-1-88-57); 3, St Louis (1-3-84-88)

Hockey

MEN'S WORLD CUP (Cagliari): Group A: Kazakstan 0, China 0; Wales 3, Egypt 2. Positions: 1, Switzerland 3pts; 2, Wales 3; 3, Canada 1; 4, New Zealand 1; 5, China 1; 6, Kazakstan 1; 7, Egypt 0. Group B: Poland 2, US 1; Kenya 1, Italy 3, Bangladesh 0, Ireland 7. Positions: 1, Ireland 6; 2, Poland 6; 3, Italy 3; 4, Bangladesh 3; 5, Scotland 0; 6, US 0; 7, Kenya 0

Ice Hockey

BENSON & HEDGES CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Manchester 2, Ayr 4.
PREMIER LEAGUE: Guildford 9, Medway 4; Peterborough 2, Kingston 11; Solihull 4, Slough 3; Swindon 7, Telford 9 (abridged at 58.45)
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Blackburn 8, Whitley 4, Fife 7, Paisley 4; Murrayfield 4, Castlereagh 3.

Snooker

REGAL MASTERS (Motherwell). Finals: P Ebdon (Eng) bt A McManus (Scot) 9-8.

Table Tennis

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (Hong Kong): Semi-finals: D Yaqiog (China) bt M Svensson (Swe) 21-13, 21-14, 21-11; Yang Yang (China) bt Wang Chen (China) 21-18, 21-15, 21-5. Finals: Deng bt Yang 21-18, 21-18, 21-17. Third place play-off: Wang bt Svensson 23-21, 21-15.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

Soccer

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First Division: Grimsby v Norwich (7.45); Ipswich v Barnsley (7.45); Oldham v West Brom (7.45); Portsmouth v Crystal Palace (7.45), Southend v Sheff Utd (7.45); Tranmere v Oxford Utd (7.45). Second Division: Bournemouth v Walsall (7.45), Bristol C v Brentford (7.45); Bury v Burnley (7.45); Chesterfield v Shrewsbury (7.45); Crewe v Blackpool, Gillingham v Notts County (7.45); Plymouth v Peterborough (7.45); Watford v Preston (7.45); Wycombe v Rotherham (7.45); York v Bristol Rvrs (7.45). Third Division: Barnet v Scarborough (7.45); Brighton v Lincoln (7.45); Cambridge Utd v Darlington (7.45); Carlisle v Colchester (7.45); Chester v Northampton (7.45); Doncaster v Hartlepool (7.45); Fulham v Torquay (7.45); Hereford v Scunthorpe (7.45); Hull v Mansfield; Leyton Orient v Swansea (7.45); Wigan v Exeter (7.45).
FA CUP: Second-round qualifying replays: Frickton v Arnold Tn; Bedworth Utd v Hinckley Ath; Atherstone Utd v Kettering Tn; Bilston Tn v Desborough Tn; Knypersley v Stourbridge; Shepshed Dynamo v Solihull Bor; Grantham Tn v Canvey Is; Cambridge C v Wroxham; Chelmsford C v Heybridge Swifts; Grays Ath v Hayes; Stansted v Hampton; Yeading v St Albans C; Fisher Ath v Hendon; Tonbridge v Molesey.
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham v Stalybridge (7.45); Dover v Bath (7.45); Macclesfield v Halifax (7.45); Slough v Woking (7.45); Southport v Gateshead (7.45); Telford v Bromsgrove (7.45).
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Gainsborough v Spennymoor; Leek Tn v Boston Utd; Wilton Alb v Marine. Cup: First round: Curzon Ashton v Atherton LR; Frickley Ath v Farsley Celtic; Gt Harwood Tn v Workington; Harrogate Tn v Stocksbridge PS; Lancaster C v Netherfield; Lincoln Utd v Alfreton Tn; Matlock Tn v Buxton; Whitley Bay v Bronte.
ICIS LEAGUE: First Division: Abingdon Tn v Wokingham Tn; Worthing v Uxbridge. Second Division: Bracknell Tn v Bedford Tn; Chalfont St Peter v Windsor & Eton; Cheshunt v Leatherhead; Edgware Tn v Leighton Tn; Egham Tn v Tilbury; Hemel Hempstead v Collier Row & Romford; Hungerford Tn v Horsham; Ware v Witham Tn. Third Division: Kingsbury Tn v Tring Tn.
N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division: Atherton Col v Clitheroe; Blackpool Rvrs v Holker Old Boys; Eastwood Hanley v Vauxhall GM; Maine Rd v Salford C; Nantwich Tn v Mossley.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: Hatfield Main v Sheffield. Presidents Cup: First round: Garforth Tn v Pickering Tn; Pontefract Col v Glasshoughton Wel.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES: Premier Division: Derby v Shell Wad (7.0); Everton v Liverpool (7.0).
LEAGUE OF WALES: Flint Tn v Caernarfon Tn.

Rugby Union

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second Division: Aberavon v Llandovery (7.0); Blackwood v UWIC (7.0, Cardiff Inst); Maesteg v Bonymaen (7.0); Pontypool v Abertillery; S Wales Police v Cross Keys (7.0); Ystradgynlais v Abercynon (7.0).
CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge Univ v Cambridge City (7.15).
ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 1: Bt Llanelli v Bath (7.0, Stradey Pk).

Basketball

EUROPEAN CUP: London Towers v PTT Ankara (8.0).

Ice Hockey

SUPERLEAGUE: Nottingham v Sheffield.
PREMIER LEAGUE: Solihull v Medway (8.0).

● Real Zaragoza have appealed against a hotly-disputed penalty decision and sending off which helped Barcelona to a 5-3 victory which put them at the top of the Spanish League on Sunday. With 20 minutes play remaining and the home side leading 3-2, the referee Manuel Mejuto sent off Zaragoza's Xavier Aguado and awarded Barcelona a penalty on the strength of advice given to him by a linesman.

● The American Kimberly Po beat Nathalie Tauziat of France 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 yesterday to set up a second-round meeting with Steffi Graf in the Leipzig WTA tournament. Graf had a first-round bye.

Athletics

Nebiolo diktat undermines Commonwealth Games

Duncan Mackay in Palma

THE 1998 Commonwealth Games may become a second-rate event as top athletes chase cash at the World Cup. During Sunday's World Half Marathon Championships here Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, revealed the cup dates in Johannesburg: they will finish on September 13, one day before the athletics begins at the Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Nebiolo is determined to protect the quality of future IAAF competitions by banning other events held in direct conflict. As further enticement for athletes to turn up, the IAAF is also awarding prize-money at its championships and cup meetings from next year.

The world's leading athletes have long lobbied for money to be available. Three years ago Michael Johnson and other top American competitors threatened to boycott the Stuttgart World Championships. The offer of Mercedes cars to gold medallists did the trick.

Nebiolo is under pressure from sponsors to ensure that IAAF events are of the highest standard. Sunday's championships lost runners to the Berlin marathon and a big road race in Luxembourg.

"This is the last time there will be competition on the same day as an IAAF event," Nebiolo said. "All competitions must have a special permit and we will not give one to any event in competition with ours. We have the strength to control the sport. We can do what we want because we are the governing body."

The dates for the Commonwealth Games have been known for more than two years but the only compromise Nebiolo is prepared to allow is the waiver of a new three- or four-day window to be put around IAAF events.

Officials of the Commonwealth Games Federation admitted yesterday they were aware of the problem. But Nebiolo is in no mood to back down. "They must fit in with us," he said.

Pools Forecast

(V=void)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION			
1	Bradford C	v Southend	1
2	Charlton	v Barnsley	x
3	Grimsby	v QPR	2
4	Ipswich	v Swindon	1
5	Oldham	v Port Vale	1
6	Wolves	v Reading	1
SECOND DIVISION			
7	Brentford	v Rotherham	1
8	Bristol R	v Crewe	V
9	Burnley	v Stockport	x
10	Bury	v Blackpool	x
11	Chesterfield	v Bristol C	2
12	Gillingham	v Bournemouth	1
13	Luton	v Walsall	1
14	Plymouth	v Millwall	1
15	Preston	v Peterborough	x
16	Wycombe	v Notts Co	2
17	York	v Watford	1
THIRD DIVISION			
18	Barnet	v Torquay	1
19	Cambridge	v Hartlepool	1
20	Carlisle	v Mansfield	1
21	Chester	v Cardiff	1
22	Darlington	v Rochdale	1
23	Doncaster	v Leyton O	x
24	Hereford	v Scarborough	1
25	Hull	v Scunthorpe	1
26	Lincoln	v Exeter	1
27	Northampton	v Fulham	x
28	Wigan	v Brighton	1
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE			
29	Hednesford	v Farnboro	1
30	Northwich	v Dover	1
31	Rushden	v Welling	x
32	Slough	v Morecambe	x
33	Stalybridge	v Kettering	2
34	Stevenage	v Southport	1
35	Woking	v Macclesfield	1
SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION			
36	Airdrie	v St Mirren	x
37	Dundee	v Clydebank	1
38	East Fife	v Falkirk	2
39	Morton	v Partick	1
SECOND DIVISION			
40	Brechin	v Berwick	1
41	Dumbarton	v Ayr Utd	x
42	Livingston	v Clyde	1
43	Stenhousemuir	v Montrose	2
44	Stranraer	v Cn of Scotia	2
THIRD DIVISION			
45	Albion R	v Montrose	x
46	East Stirling	v Ross	2
47	Forfar	v Cowdenbeath	2
48	Inverness Cal	v Arbroath	1
49	Queens Park	v Alloa	2

Rugby Union

Wasps reinforce super-club plan

Robert Armstrong

WASPS are rejecting Will Carling's controversial view that "there aren't 500 good players in the Courage leagues" but they agree with the former England captain that league rugby has overvalued itself.

Wasps also support Carling's blueprint for the development of English rugby through a series of powerful "super-clubs".

Rob Smith, Wasps' coach, yesterday insisted there were "potentially far more than 500 good players" in England of League One standard.

"It's a question of focusing on young players and giving them a chance," said Smith, who has guided Wasps to the joint League leadership alongside Harlequins, Carling's club. "At present the short-term answer is for clubs to buy a team by offering contracts to proven players from around the world."

This year Wasps have geared their recruitment drive to such promising young English players as Alex King, Paul Sampson, Nick Greenstock and Simon Mitchell. All have played in League One this season.

"Now that professionalism has arrived you can change players quite rapidly if they fail to perform," said Smith. "But I believe you must also develop talented youngsters to achieve long-term stability." He agrees with Carling that English club rugby has priced itself too highly because it has not yet come to terms with professionalism.

"Everything in the game has been overvalued, largely because the players were in this beautiful position of being able to say 'Somebody down the road will pay me more' when contracts were agreed. Last season the RFU's stupid moratorium stopped the clubs acting quickly and allowed the cost of contracts to keep on going up and up."

Nevertheless league rugby was becoming more attractive to television, suggested Smith, with its more entertaining style of play and improved playing arenas.

"There is a tremendously positive attitude throughout the country on and off the pitch," he said. "The game was sliding down a cul-de-sac but now the standard is higher, better grounds are regarded as important and the European dimension will create greater public interest."

Carling's proposal that League One should evolve into a series of super-clubs which function as centres of excellence for players in different age-groups has previously been floated by Wasps.

"We don't need the RFU divisions to produce sides on a par with the better provincial teams of New Zealand and South Africa," said Smith. "But we do need the game to be restructured around the leading clubs to raise standards of play and enable us to compete with the top Southern Hemisphere sides. Each club could serve as a focus for a large part of the country and generate tremendous interest within its catchment area."

Welsh clubs rumble on towards breakaway

David Plummer on moves this week that may bring independence in the Principality

THE long-running dispute between the Welsh Rugby Union and its 12 First Division clubs will finally come to a head this week. The clubs, who have been demanding the independence to run their own competitions, are meeting on Friday when they expect to hear details of a television and sponsorship package which would fund a breakaway.

The WRU called a special general committee meeting last night to draw up a plan of campaign should the clubs decide to recommend a state of independence to their members.

The WRU's secretary Richard Jasinski wrote to the First Division clubs last month asking to meet them individually. Jasinski said he was disappointed that the Anglo-Welsh Cup has failed to take off. He has accused the Welsh clubs of using it as a political football, demanding the competition only to field weakened teams, thereby scaring off sponsors and television.

"We arranged a meeting with the Rugby Football Union and the Welsh and English First Division clubs earlier this month to put a structure to the tournament and get money for our sides from television," he said.

"We had a £500,000 offer on the table but the clubs failed to turn up. It seems to me that an attempt is being made to destabilise the running of the game by the unions. We are accused of not doing this or that but, when we put something together, the clubs undermine us."

The Anglo-Welsh Cup continues tonight when the English champions Bath visit Llanelli but both teams will field weakened sides. Bath play the New Zealander Henry Paul at full-back but include only four of the side that defeated West Hartlepool on Saturday.

Llanelli will finalise their team this morning. The Scarlets have been hit by injuries and the presence of three players in the Welsh squad which travels to Italy this week.

They hope the former New Zealand fly-half Frano Botica will be able to make his debut while his former All Black colleague, the prop Steve McDowell, arrived in Llanelli at the end of last week and could be drafted into the front row.

Llanelli were yesterday in talks with Orrell to secure Botica's services. The RFU has said it will not sanction the New Zealander's move until Llanelli have paid a fee for his transfer.

Meanwhile referees in Wales are demanding to be paid for taking charge of league matches from Divisions One to Five. They have submitted a £120,000 package for the season backdated to August 31.

The secretary of the Welsh Referees Society Hugh Banfield said: "We are not asking for much but we have a situation this season where, if our referees do exchange matches in England, they are paid nothing while the English touch judges get up to £100 each."

● Andy Reed, the former Bath, Scotland and Lions lock, will make his Wasps debut in their Anglo-Welsh game against Neath at Sudbury tomorrow.

Ageing yippy . . . bunker play is no problem; the agony that all golfers fear comes on the green MARTIN McCULLOUGH

Putting the master ill at ease

David Davies on why Bernhard Langer has only two events left in which to save his 16-year winning record on the European Tour

ONE of the proudest, certainly the longest-lasting records in golf could be broken by the end of this month. In each of the past 16 years Bernhard Langer has won an event on the European Tour, the longest such run recorded in Europe and one fully indicative of the German's position in the world of golf.

However, unless Langer can win either the German Masters, which begins in Berlin this week, or the Volvo Masters on October 24-27 at Valderrama in Spain, it will come to an end and, in today's highly competitive atmosphere, it is difficult to see it being repeated.

But the fact that he has got this far is in itself remarkable, for while Langer is one of the most talented golfers ever to emerge in Europe, he is a player who, more than most, is dictated to by his putting. When it is good, he is brilliant, and he once finished a season in which he played largely in America as the leader of their putting statistics.

Equally the reverse applies and no good player has ever experienced the depths to which he has occasionally sunk when the yips have taken over. He once five-putted in the Open Championship and all that his exceedingly loyal caddie, Peter Coleman, will say about that moment — on the 17th green at Royal Lytham & St Annes in 1988 — is that his boss was trying hard on every one of them.

That was the third visitation of a putting disease whose name most golfers do not dare to speak, it being held to be highly infectious. On that as on the previous occasions Langer found a way round his problems, inventing a crouched and contrived method of getting the ball into the hole. He placed his left hand down at the bottom of the putter grip and locked his right hand on to the top of the grip, trapping it between his hand and his left forearm. It looked ridiculous, but it succeeded in doing what it had to do: to lock the left wrist and prevent it from making that involuntary twitch which is the source of the yips.

However, the late and great Henry Longhurst, knowing that the real cause of the yips lies in the mind rather than in any physical manifestation, summed up the problem by saying: "Once you've had 'em, you've got 'em," and so it has proved with Langer.

Despite another change of putting styles — he has gone to the long putter — there is a noticeable lack of confidence about the man which began on the greens earlier this year and has now spread to the rest of his game.

After last week's Smurfit European Open at The K Club near Dublin, where Langer finished 38th, he lay, overall, 41st in the Volvo rankings, an amazing position for a man with his record. Despite those putting fluctuations he has always managed enough good tournaments to finish in the top 10 in Europe, and for the past six years he has not been out of the top five.

This year he has almost no chance of doing that after a season in which, apart from losing a play-off for the French Open to Robert Allenby, he has not recorded a single top 10 finish.

The problems began in March in Florida where he was hitting the ball as well as at any time in his career. But his putting was such that it caused Coleman to say: "He's got to do something. He can't be competitive putting like this."

They turned out to be prophetic words. Langer experimented with the long putter, but rejected it, and by the time he decided that it was the only answer, his game had gone into decline. It got so bad at the US Open in June that in one untypical, and later withdrawn, outburst, he said that if things did not improve immediately, he would retire.

That option must remain a possibility. Langer has won more than £5 million in Europe alone and does not want for money. Also, as a committed Christian, he has long wanted to get involved in church work.

But all that may have to wait. If Langer has any grounds for hope in resurrecting a fading career, they will lie in the fact that this week's tournament is in Germany, and he has an amazing record of success in his home country.

No fewer than nine of his 34 victories on the European Tour have been achieved there, over a period stretching from 1981 to 1995, and if anything can rekindle his confidence, it may be that playing among his own people can.

Cricket

Lancs sign Sri Lanka coach

David Hopps

LANCASHIRE continued county cricket's love affair with Australian coaches by naming Dav Whatmore yesterday as their new head coach. Old Trafford, already home to the best one-day side in the country, will hope that Whatmore's creative and placid manner will improve a championship record little short of embarrassing.

Whatmore might not be the most acclaimed of the Australians but no one can claim over the past year to have been more successful. As Sri Lanka's team manager he was primarily responsible for fostering the harmonious and imaginative atmosphere which was the basis of their unexpected World Cup triumph.

Sri Lanka's World Cup success, however, has not been without its petty politicking and Whatmore's patience is finally spent. As long as Arjuna Ranatunga remains as Sri Lanka's captain, power will remain largely in his province. Early last summer, less than three months after Sri Lanka's World Cup win, Whatmore was quietly investigating coaching possibilities in England.

Whatmore, with a measure of relief, has begun to negotiate his release with the Sri Lankan board. Although he retains great affection for the country of his birth, his family failed to settle, partly because of the ongoing civil war against the Tamil Tigers, and returned to Australia.

"It's hard to explain all the frustrations but life can become very complicated over here," he said. "I've not always found things entirely straightforward. Lancashire have given me a chance to prove myself in English first-class cricket and that is a great opportunity."

Bob Bennett, Lancashire's chairman, said: "Dav is a proven winner and I'm delighted that he's coming to Old Trafford. He has experience at international level both as player and coach and was very keen to join us."

Whatmore — whose first name is Davanell — was born in Ceylon but raised in Australia, for whom he played seven Tests. He toured England with Australia's 1979 World Cup side and gained further experience in club cricket and with Middlesex 2nd XI.

Many of his coaching ideas were developed at the Victoria Academy of Sport in Melbourne. Lancashire's players can expect a placid coach who is willing to look sympathetically on the heavy demands of an English season.

Lancashire, who failed with overtures to two other Australians, Dennis Lillee and Allan Border, concluded negotiations last week in Nairobi, where Sri Lanka are competing in a quadrangular tournament.

Ice Hockey

Lynch dares Eagles to go for the kill

Vic Batchelder

THE Ayr Scottish Eagles are unbeaten in eight games but their coach Jim Lynch is looking for his birds of prey to develop a killer instinct. On Sunday they did enough to beat an injury-hit Manchester Storm 4-2 in the first leg of the Benson & Hedges Cup quarter-final in Manchester.

Goals from Sam Groleau, Vince Boe, Angelo Catenaro and Alan Schuler against one each from Craig Woodcroft and Brad Rubachuk for the home side mean Ayr take a two-goal advantage into Saturday's return in Scotland. But that country's only Superleague team, formed during the summer, should have had "another five or six" according to their mentor on his first night coaching from the team bench.

Contractual problems over Lynch's summer move from the Dumfries Vikings were resolved last week and Lynch had watched Ayr's six B & H qualifying games, in which they dropped one point, and last week's opening Superleague draw with Basingstoke from the public seating.

"It gave me a good perspective of the team. Getting up higher, not worrying about line changes and situations in the game you get to read things and store them in your head a little easier," said the coach who has gathered an impressive collection of European and North American talent, led by the 37-year-old former Czech international forward Jiri Lala.

Sunday's Premier League game at Swindon was abandoned after a pane of protective glass above the boards surrounding the ice shattered three minutes from time. The league must rule on a claim by visiting Telford, who led 9-7 at the time that the score should stand and the points be awarded to them.

Rugby League

Promotion has Lowes on a high

Andy Wilson in Lautoka

GREAT BRITAIN's third tour game takes place against a Fijian President's XIII here tomorrow — an inauspicious place to make one's debut as an international captain. Captain Bligh spotted it in 1789 from his launch after the mutineers threw him off HMS Bounty.

James Lowes has no such worries. Bradford Bulls' 26-year-old hooker was delighted to accept Phil Larder's invitation to lead the Lions' midweek side. His Test prospects are slim and the midweek captaincy is very much up for grabs in so young a party, especially now that Daryl Powell, Larder's first choice in Papua New Guinea last Wednesday, has forced his way into the Test squad.

Lowes, an aggressive, industrious and talkative player, could be a good choice. He made a low-key international debut for Ireland against Scotland in August but scored one try and had another two disallowed on his first Lions appearance in Papua New Guinea. He captained Leeds several times in the centenary season before moving to Odsal last winter.

Lowes . . . midweek captain

Like Powell, the Castleford half-back Tony Smith excelled in the two victories in PNG, not least as a second-half replacement for Cunningham at hooker, and he is also rested for Saturday's Test at Madi.

Smith is replaced as midweek scrum-half by Tulsen Tollett, a London Bronco who speaks with an Australian accent even though he has English parents and was born in Hastings.

There are a number of other changes with significance for Saturday's Test team. Joey Hayes, Terry O'Connor and Chris Joynt are all named in tomorrow's starting XIII. Lowes's tour room-mate Brian McDermott, also of Bradford, played well at Mount Hagen last Wednesday and is favourite to replace O'Connor in the front row.

Hayes and Joynt are still in the running, though, especially with Alan Hunte (back) and Rowland Phillips (skin infection) both out. Jonathan Roper's knee injury could be more serious and a decision on his prospects for the rest of the trip will be made today.

The President's XIII — the President in question being the Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka — is composed almost entirely of players from the national competition. Only three of them have experience of the Australian Optus Cup.

Their Test team, captained by the brilliant Canberra winger Noa Nadruku and including the Sheffield pair Mala Yasa and Waisale Sovatabua and Bradford's Joe Tamani, will be far stronger.

GREAT BRITAIN: Prescott (St Helens); Hayes (St Helens), Mather (Western Reds), Senior (Sheffield), Critchley (Keighley); Hammond (St Helens), Tollett (London); O'Connor (Wigan), Lowes (Bradford, capt), Harmes (Leeds), Bradbury (Oldham), Cassidy (Wigan), Joynt (St Helens); Substitutes: Sullivan (St Helens), Dwyer (Bradford), Marley (Leeds), Molloy (Featherstone).

American Football

Giants repel Vikings raid to put bite back into Big Apple

Mark Tran in New York

THE New York Giants restored the flagging spirits of gridiron fans in the Big Apple when they defeated the previously unbeaten Minnesota Vikings 15–0 on Sunday.

For the Giants — who, along with their city rivals, the Jets, have had a poor start to the season — it was a surprising win and suddenly they are being talked about as contenders for the NFC East title, now that the Dallas Cowboys no longer look so invulnerable.

Although the Giants had broken their duck the previous week by beating the Jets in a match that had been dubbed the Losers' Bowl, they were the underdogs against a Vikings side still basking in the glow of their win against the Green Bay Packers, many people's pick for the Super Bowl.

But the Giants prevailed through a combination of stalwart defence and some uncharacteristically aggressive play-calling from their normally conservative coach Dan Reeves.

The game turned on a crucial play late in the third quarter as the Giants trailed 7–6. On fourth and one, just outside Minnesota's endzone, Reeves could have chosen the sensible course and gone for the field goal and a two-point lead.

Instead he gambled on a running play by Rodney Hampton, who drove them to within one yard of the scoring area.

On the next play Reeves opted for some trickery. Dave Brown, the quarterback, faked a hand-off to Hampton and instead gave the ball to Aaron Pierce, the half-back, on a reverse from right to left. Pierce high-stepped into the endzone with a Viking vainly tugging at his dark blue jersey. An 18-yard field goal completed an excellent afternoon for the Giants.

"They can't take a lot away from you if you beat a 4–0 team that has the players they have and have beaten the teams they beat," Reeves said afterwards. "It wasn't a fluke. Yeah, they may not have been as up, playing a 1–3 team, as they should have been, but there wasn't anything fluky about it."

While the gloom lifted for the Giants, there was no respite for the Jets as they were beaten 31–16 by the resurgent Washington Redskins.

Despite purchasing the quarterback Neil O'Donnell from the Pittsburgh Steelers in their pre-season spending spree, the Jets appear to have paid a great deal of money for a lot of dross.

If the Jets' defeat was predictable, those of the Carolina Panthers and the Kansas City Chiefs were not. The Panthers, who had beaten the San Francisco 49ers the previous week, went down to the Jacksonville Jaguars, and the Chiefs lost to the San Diego Chargers.

The 49ers and the Packers showed their resilience by bouncing back from the previous week's defeats with comfortable wins.

Sailing

Gales slow the challengers

Bob Fisher

GALE-force headwinds throughout the first day of the BT Global Challenge did not diminish the battle at the front of the fleet. The leaders covered only 160 miles in those 24 hours, which was indicative of the hard going, and early yesterday evening Toshiba Wave Warrior was a mile ahead of her nearest rival.

Wave Warrior, skippered by Simon Walker, picked up the lead overnight from the early leader, Mike Golding in Group 4 Securitas, but towards the end of the day Golding began to close on his rival by staying further to the north. As the light began to fade, Wave Warrior was 36 miles from the Isle of Ushant off north-west France, closer to the French coast than Golding and having to sail hard on the wind.

The difference was a knot in boat speed, enough to put Securitas back in front before Ushant was passed, probably around midnight. The gales may then have given way to more moderate winds and these should have veered into the north-west allowing all the boats to sail faster and more freely as they headed off across the Bay of Biscay.

Golding was having his work cut out trying to hold off Concert, captained by Chris Tibbs, a veteran of two Whitbread Races. Like Wave Warrior, however, Concert was further south and having to point high to clear the headlands along the Brittany coast.

Richard Tudor had moved up in the rankings to fourth with Nuclear Electric, the boat that won the British Steel Challenge four years ago. Paul Bennett's Ocean Rover was then four miles further back and James Hatfield's disabled crew on Time & Tide had improved from last of the 14 boats to 11th.

Sport in brief

Tennis

The British No. 1 Tim Henman has moved up one place to 32 in the world rankings, the highest of his career. Henman will now play in six successive tournaments in Europe in an effort to reach the top 20 on the ATP computer. His quest begins today when he meets France's Guy Forget in the first round of the Lyon Grand Prix.

Sweden's former world No. 1 Mats Wilander was beaten 6–2, 6–2 by the 20-year-old Dutchman Sjeng Schalken in the first round of the Singapore Open.

Chess

With two rounds to go, England are the revelation of the 70-nation women's Olympiad at Erevan in Armenia, *writes Leonard Barden*. The No. 15 seeds share fourth place, battling for the medals with China and three ex-Soviet squads. Surrey's Susan Lalic, 30, has been awarded the international master title at men's level, a first for a British woman.

Lalic followed up her win over China's Xie Jun by drawing with another ex-world champion, Georgia's Maia Ciburdanidze, and is in contention for the individual gold medal with 9½/12. In the men's competition Russia are three points clear with two rounds left and virtually assured of the team gold.

Hockey

Wales enjoyed their first taste of victory in the men's World Cup preliminary round tournament in Cagliari, Italy, when they beat Egypt 3–2 in the second phase of group games. But the win was marred when their captain David Hacker was sent off two minutes from time for his second yellow-card offence of the match.

Rugby League

Warrington are attempting to sign the New Zealander Nigel Vagana, a 23-year-old Auckland Warriors full-back and stand-off. Warrington have made an offer for Vagana whose Auckland club-mate, the forward Tony Tatupu, is also set to join them.

Boxing

Robbie Regan has been forced to pull out of the first defence of his WBO bantamweight title on October 19. Regan was due to defend against Scotland's Drew Docherty at the Cardiff Ice Rink but is suffering from a virus.

The man who talks to horses, page 13

FA calls in the referees, page 14

Lancashire grab Sri Lanka coach, page 15

Wasps endorse super-club plan, page 15

SportsGuardian

MOTOR-RACING MEMORABILIA UNDER THE HAMMER

Hat-trick . . . the helmet Stirling Moss wore throughout his career and the one worn by Damon Hill in his maiden grand prix qualifying race in 1992 were two of the items among 118 lots in a sale of motor-racing memorabilia at the Dorchester Hotel last night. It was the first time a Moss helmet had been put up for sale at auction. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

Hooydonk faces suspension

Patrick Glenn on why Celtic are at their wits end with the 'disruptive' Dutch striker

CELTIC are to consider suspending their Dutch striker Pierre van Hooydonk after dropping him for Saturday's Old Firm match amid claims that the player had been responsible for breaches of club discipline.

The Celtic chairman Fergus McCann and the manager Tommy Burns yesterday pointed out that the term's of Van Hooydonk's contract permit such a course of action.

"If he or any other player isn't happy here or can get better paid elsewhere," added Burns, "they can leave. We'll simply replace them."

Van Hooydonk had claimed, during a widely-aired defence on radio and in the press, that he was being forced out of Parkhead although he insisted he had not asked for a move.

"That's not the case," McCann countered. "At a meeting in my office 10 days ago, at which the player and three other people, including myself, were present, he told us that if he didn't get an increase in terms on his present contract, he wanted to leave the club.

"He was told then, and it still goes, that we are prepared to better his wages if he will sign an extension to his existing agreement, which, don't forget, still has 21 months to run. All he wants is more money without the further commitment."

Burns also revealed that the 26-year-old Van Hooydonk, who was yesterday named in the Holland squad to face Wales on Saturday, had told him at the end of last season that Feyenoord were interested in signing him and he wanted to join them.

Van Hooydonk, who has scored 52 goals since he signed from NAC Breda in January, 1995, has established himself as a favourite with the Celtic supporters.

But Burns yesterday claimed that the Dutchman is a disruptive influence in the dressing-room and claimed that if Van Hooydonk is to be considered for Celtic "he will have to learn humility".

The manager claimed that Van Hooydonk refused to take part in several commercial and charitable promotions for the club, had refused to join team-mates in pre-match warm-ups when told to, and had generally been disruptive.

"Players are coming in here and asking how is he getting away with this or getting away with that," said Burns. "We can't have that. It's not about any individual, including Tommy Burns or Fergus McCann. It's about moving the club forward towards its goals."

McCann added that Van Hooydonk had failed to honour his contract in other ways, such as failing to turn up for Mick McCarthy's testimonial in Dublin during the spring and in refusing to speak to the media, including the club's Celtic View newspaper.

"This is the main medium for the club to speak to fans who pay hard-earned money to watch them and buy their sponsors' clothes and boots," said the chairman. "There have been other incidents of a commercial and charitable nature where the player has refused to give his time, despite his contractual obligations."

The Van Hooydonk affair comes at a time when Celtic could do with a break. In the past two weeks they have had to endure public ridicule as well as elimination from the Coca-Cola and Uefa Cups and a 2-0 defeat by Rangers which, even this early in the season, jeopardises their chances of stopping their rivals from lifting a ninth successive title.

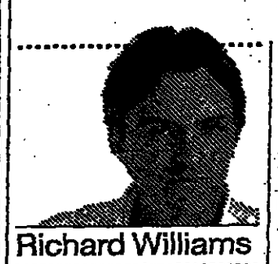
The pantomime season opened on the eve of the Coca-Cola quarter-final with Hearts, when a player leaked a story that there was dissatisfaction in the dressing-room over win bonuses.

The timing of that outburst — which brought bemusement to Celtic supporters who hear of under-achievers earning weekly five-figure sums — was less than judicious. Since then Celtic have lost three matches out of four.

Ths two defeats by Hamburg in the Uefa Cup are testimony to the gap between the Parkhead side and even the most ordinary of opponents. At the time Hamburg were thirteenth in the Bundesliga.

"If there was a cabinet full of trophies here, you might bite the bullet and put up with some nonsense," said a somewhat rueful Burns.

Joke is on the other foot for Gazza



Richard Williams

IF YOU pay a man, say, £100,000 for the right to spend a year following him around with a television crew, do you really expect him to let you see and hear everything that goes on? Or does the payment, rather than buying you unhindered access to his innermost secrets, more subtly reinforce his powers of exclusion and control?

Three years ago Graham Taylor kept his side of the bargain. Perhaps that says more about the former England manager's ingenuousness and vanity — the qualities that ultimately betrayed his stewardship of the national team — than about his understanding of the media. Chrysalis TV's director Ken McGill can hardly have believed his luck when Taylor handed him the horrifically watchable touchline material that has since been distilled into a national catchphrase.

Paul Gascoigne, by contrast, is a far shrewder proposition. Or at least Mel Stein and Len Lazarus are.

Fittingly Stein and Lazarus — Gascoigne's London-based solicitor and accountant — are the first people we meet in Gazza's Coming Home, Chrysalis and McGill's latest effort, to be shown by Channel 4 next Monday night. We see them arriving at his villa in the Roman hills one day in 1995, ready to discuss his imminent transfer away from Lazio; after exchanging affectionate kisses with their client they sit down to talk.

"Obviously you know that there are several clubs now interested," Stein says, "and they've all spoken to Lazio. That's Rangers, Chelsea, Leeds and Villa. I mean, you know, we find it sort of a little bit odd perhaps that Blackburn haven't actually come in at the death, given that Kenny has been such a fan of yours for years, but obviously that's their decision."

Then Lazarus takes over. "They've all actually talked with Lazio and tried to do a deal on the basis of X pounds down and further payments depending on how many matches you play for them," he says. "And whilst Lazio initially looked like they were prepared to consider that sort of deal, once they realised the demand, how many clubs were interested, they completely changed their mind and it's now a cash-only deal."

Gascoigne: "Mhm."

Lazarus: "And, quite honestly, I mean you're talking about the sort of figures that . . . they're talking about between four and five million pounds."

Gascoigne: "Yeah."

A minute or so later they decide on Rangers. "The upside," Stein says, "is that it's obviously out of the firing-line in terms of England."

Footballers and their agents are often heard to complain about the intrusiveness of the media. Yet here, acting on Gascoigne's behalf, Stein and Lazarus were apparently happy to provide access to private negotations involving third parties. Or at least the semblance of access.

There is nothing in Gazza's Coming Home to match the spellbinding gruesomeness of the Taylor programme. We already knew that Gazza likes a drink, that he is most comfortable in the presence of his family and mates, that he scores wonderful goals, that his recent wedding rivalled the coronation of Emperor Jean Bedel Bokassa in its modesty, and that he likes to wind people up. We are not surprised to learn that, for once, he was the victim of a team mate's wind-up which led to the lamentable invisible-flute incident.

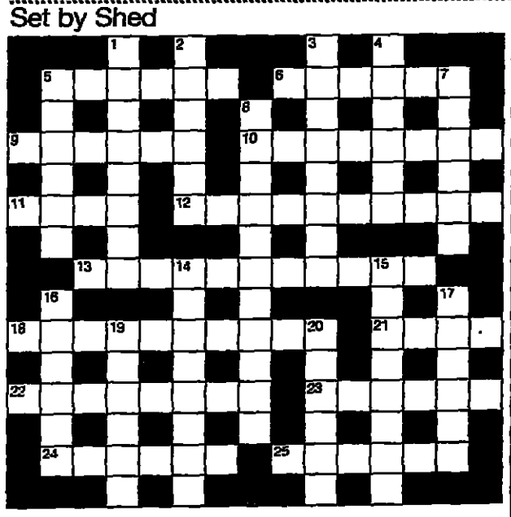
THE programme's only genuine revelation is the news that Rangers paid their players a bonus of £25,000 for appearing in the home and away legs of the European Cup preliminary round tie against Famagusta last year. (No, not for the final; not even for the Champions League stage; but for *the preliminary round*.)

We learn this on being told of Gascoigne's amused response to the discomfiture of Ally McCoist, who raged against Walter Smith's decision not to send him on as a 90th-minute sub in that match, thus costing McCoist £12,500 — half of which he later recouped from Ian Durrant, whose late injury forced the change in Smith's plans.

Elsewhere in the programme McGill's camera catches Gascoigne taking the mickey out of media people, tying a TV journalist in knots and pulling faces behind the back of the director of the Walkers Crisps ad. What it cannot do is catch him taking the mickey out of the makers of Gazza's Coming Home. But somewhere, well out of camera range, he and Stein and Lazarus are probably still laughing their heads off.

Guardian Crossword No 20,772

Set by Shed

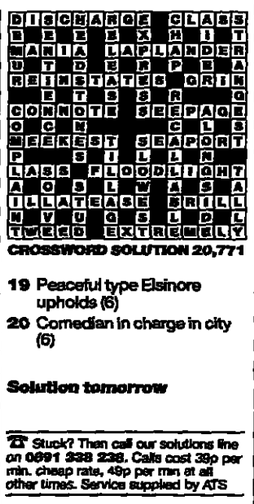


Across

5 Female elk exchanged for money (6)
6 Cuts restricting Egyptian leader, a pyramid builder (5)
9 Films of men about to infiltrate secret service (6)
10 Newspaper has no regret, in retrospect, about vegetable (8)
11 Fish with a tail (4)
12 Gasp around a concession — the man's a know-all (10)
13 Knocks before visit to charge miscreant (11)
14 Unkempt, extremely sloppy, admitting infatuation with Holland (8)
15 Big boy receives warning, being no longer organic (8)
16 Wrong about sculptor being uplifted by injury (6)
17 Fish craft capsized in Ireland (6)
18 Church leaders making inaccurate copies smart (10)
21 Lively, wanting a bunch of flowers (4)
22 Tart, and what to do with it (8)
23 Upset by very loud interruption of control (6)
24 Wherewith to bomb buddy during short war (6)
25 Oriental record makers about to arrive (6)

Down

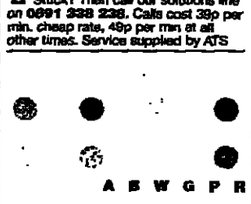
1 Getting up, ready to fight — about time for sugar? (6)
2 Community in moist condition may be off (6)
3 It's used for drawing drink, getting Carol drunk (8)
4 Sex appeal involving a brassy sound (6)
5 Peg, drunk, embraces boor (6)
7 Unusual extra accepts speaking part (6)
8 Love to call on a musician (11)
14 Unkempt, extremely sloppy, admitting infatuation with Holland (8)
15 Big boy receives warning, being no longer organic (8)
16 Wrong about sculptor being uplifted by injury (6)
17 Fish craft capsized in Ireland (6)
19 Peaceful type Elsinore upholds (6)
20 Comedian in charge in city (6)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,771

Solution tomorrow

☎ Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 238. Calls cost 39p per min. cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS



Everton see their Weah clear

Ian Ross on Joe Royle's Italian mission to sign the global choice as player of the year

EVERTON have joined the chase for George Weah, the Milan and Liberia international striker who currently rejoices in the title of African, European and Fifa World Player of the Year.

Arguably the most complete forward in world football, he is also being courted by Arsenal, who formally install Arsène Wenger as their new manager this morning.

Everton's manager Joe Royle flew to Italy on Sunday and watched covetously as Weah scored twice in Milan's 3-0 Serie A win over Perugia. Royle also took the opportunity to restate his interest in Weah's team-mate Marco Simone, the Italian international forward who could be available at £8 million.

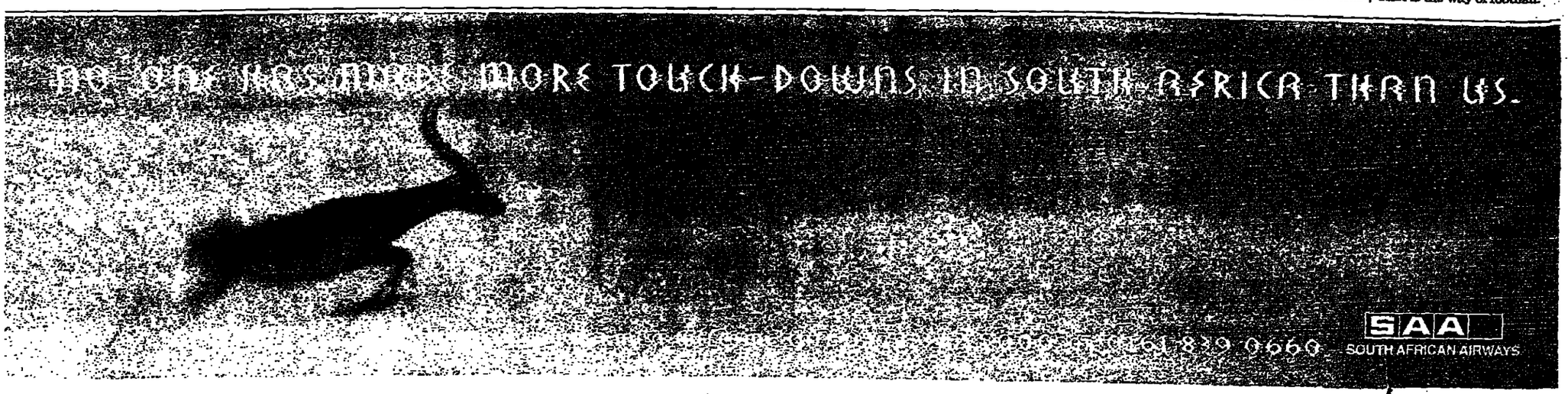
Royle has almost £12 million to spend on new players but he has other irons in other fires. Last Thursday, for example, he lodged a bid of £1.6 million for Uwe Rösler, Manchester City's German striker.

Royle would like to lure Weah away from Milan but but he and Wenger are unconvinced that it is sound business practice to pay as much as £11 million for a 30-year-old footballer. All the same Royle is determined to bring players of impeccable pedigree to Goodison Park and a move for either Weah or Simone as well as Rösler cannot be discounted.

Everton won for the first time in nine attempts at the weekend but Duncan Ferguson and Paul Rideout, the club's two most experienced forwards, both underwent surgery last week and will be unavailable for the foreseeable future.

Royle's journey to Italy was undertaken as speculation mounted on Merseyside that all is not well with Andrei Kanchelskis, who moved to Everton from Manchester United for a fee of £4.5 million 13 months ago. The Russian international was recently the subject of a well publicised bid from the Italian club Fiorentina, something that may well have left him with a bad case of wanderlust.

His sentiments yesterday were hardly calculated to reassure Royle of his willingness to see out the remaining three years of his contract at Goodison Park.

"I am happy here but the Fiorentina thing was fact," he said. "I know they were interested in me. I was flattered by that interest but it is out of my hands. I am not looking to rock the boat but, when the time is right, why not Italy?"

As for Everton, he added, "We need three or four more high-class players if we are to challenge. I have got nothing against the lads here, they are a great bunch. But if you want success you must buy it. That is the way of football."